

THE STAR'S

COMPUTING & HIGH TECH

COMPUTER COMPANIES

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Confusing standards:

Keeping your options open with 486 PCs

THE PROBLEM with buying a 486 PC, as is the case with all other PC hardware, is that you can't predict the sudden developments in speed and performance. Just when you think you own the fastest PC money can buy, faster processors emerge.

Most 486 PCs currently available run at a speed of 33MHz. But with Intel's launching of a 50 MHz version of its 486DX, it looks like 33MHz processors won't represent the standard for long.

The recent release of machines incorporating a 50MHz chip has shocked many, and has left PC users wondering whether their PCs can be upgraded or not.

It is fair to assume that anyone purchasing one of these new systems wants the best performance available and will be using heavy weight applications and data. The size of each machine's memory and storage is therefore very important, and so is the ability to upgrade your machine. Another factor that needs to be considered is the space available for increasing the power of your PC if you're planning to add expansion cards and peripherals.

Upgrading

In the past, the traditional way of upgrading a PC was to buy another one. Replacing your com-

puter is not an easy thing to do, especially if it is going to happen more often than it should. For that reason, PC manufacturers are increasingly offering some sort of upgrade path for users.

Some manufacturers offer their customers the service of upgrading the machine by using replaceable processor cards or modules. These can often be installed by the user. Of course, this works — assuming that your PC uses a standard, generic motherboard and case and you know what you are doing. The new technique makes life easier for the user. In some cases, the processor card contains little more than the CPU itself, while in other cases all the PC's components are put on the card with the motherboard, containing only expansion slots and very little circuitry.

Small CPU cards should be cheaper, however pricing differs from one manufacturer to another. Talking about upgrading



Three new 486 PCs: The Elonex PC-450B, Silicon Valley 486/50 & HM Minstrel 486.

from a 486/50 may seem to be too much, but with the Intel 586 on the way, it's best to keep your options open.

Performance

Do you really need a faster CPU? It depends on what you are doing. Some processor-hungry applications will definitely run faster. If you're going to re-calculate huge spreadsheets or re-draw models of vast machinery then you will need the extra speed. Applications are making more demands on the speed of a computer's hard disk and display.

As prices fall, these additions will become better value. It remains a test of time to see if 486/50 MHz processors will make a difference in the lives of computer users. In the meantime, study the different possibilities of expanding your PC. ■

Z. N

Virus Clinic

THE DARK AVENGER virus cannot be detected by the virus scanner, Scan 85. In fact, using this version of program may make the virus active. The version of this program that can detect the virus is Scan 77. So it is advisable to obtain this ver-

sion in order to prevent any harm to your computer. Another important fact about viruses is that you cannot protect your files by changing them into 'Read Only' files since this does not prevent infection by viruses.

Our final tip for this week concerns dealing with the 'Key Press' virus, which cannot be detected by the virus scanner Scan 8.1V85 if the virus is present in memory. That is why it is preferable to use the program by typing the following: A>SCAN C:\M\A.

(Source: JCS)

Next Week:
Windows
3.1

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The Star
Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

User Groups

COMPUTER USERS are known to enjoy social gatherings which relate to their favorite topic. Upon this fact, the idea of computer user groups and clubs have been set up all over the world to cater for the needs of computer communities.

Jordanian computer users can't really claim to enjoy the fruits of such user groups or clubs since there aren't any at the moment. Of course, several attempts have been made in the past, some of which were rather successful.

Let's start with the Jordan Apple User Group (JAUG), which was set up by a group of Apple users in cooperation with Ideal Systems, Apple Computer Inc. distributors, a few years ago. It held weekly meetings, during which seminars and lectures were given on topics of interest to Apple owners. The meetings represented a chance for users to exchange hints, tips and software (public domain). Several users have expressed to me how satisfied they were with their membership. However, the user group's activities have come to a sudden halt. For a few months now, the user group has not met. So whose fault is it? Well, the members have shown enthusiasm about the group by paying their membership fees, but is that enough?

Running a user group is not an easy job since it requires a lot of dedication. It consumes time and effort to organize meetings, contact the users, produce a newsletter and see to their problems and inquiries. A group of members usually volunteer to take on these responsibilities and that's how the user group has been run so far. But for the past few months, nobody has been serious about taking on this responsibility. Even the newsletter has vanished and there haven't been any meetings. If only Apple users imagined the good they could get from this user group, they wouldn't let such a chance sink into such problems. That is just about the most serious attempt I've come across.

It must be said, though, that some computer companies are rather active and do organize activities which sometimes involve users and dealers getting together to discuss various issues. Still, this is definitely not enough, since these meetings are far too infrequent. Some cultural and educational institutions have provided users with rather commendable services.

The Abdel Hamid Shoman Foundation has always been a good place for computer users to meet and has provided a suitable setting which is well equipped with computer hardware and software to satisfy the needs of students and workers. Still, this does not really represent a computer club. Many computer users are of the opinion that they can get together without needing to be members in a user group. If they want to increase their knowledge in computers they can attend lectures or seminars given by companies or the Jordan Computer Society (JCS). This is a very negative attitude which will get them nowhere. Until such user groups or computer clubs become strong entities nobody will speak on the behalf of computer users. Let's suppose, for example, that users feel that the fees they have to pay for training courses are far too high. Who is going to convey this opinion and who is going to negotiate a decrease in prices?

User groups and clubs represent a sign of development in computer communities. With the computer user base increasing in Jordan, it only seems logical for us to have such groups. It is most probable that the developments and advancements expected in the local computer market will push users towards getting together again. So, until then, users will have to independently express their views and opinions and hope to find a listening ear. ■

J A U G

The Star

Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

AMMAN, 14 — 20 MAY 1992, VOLUME 3, NUMBER 9

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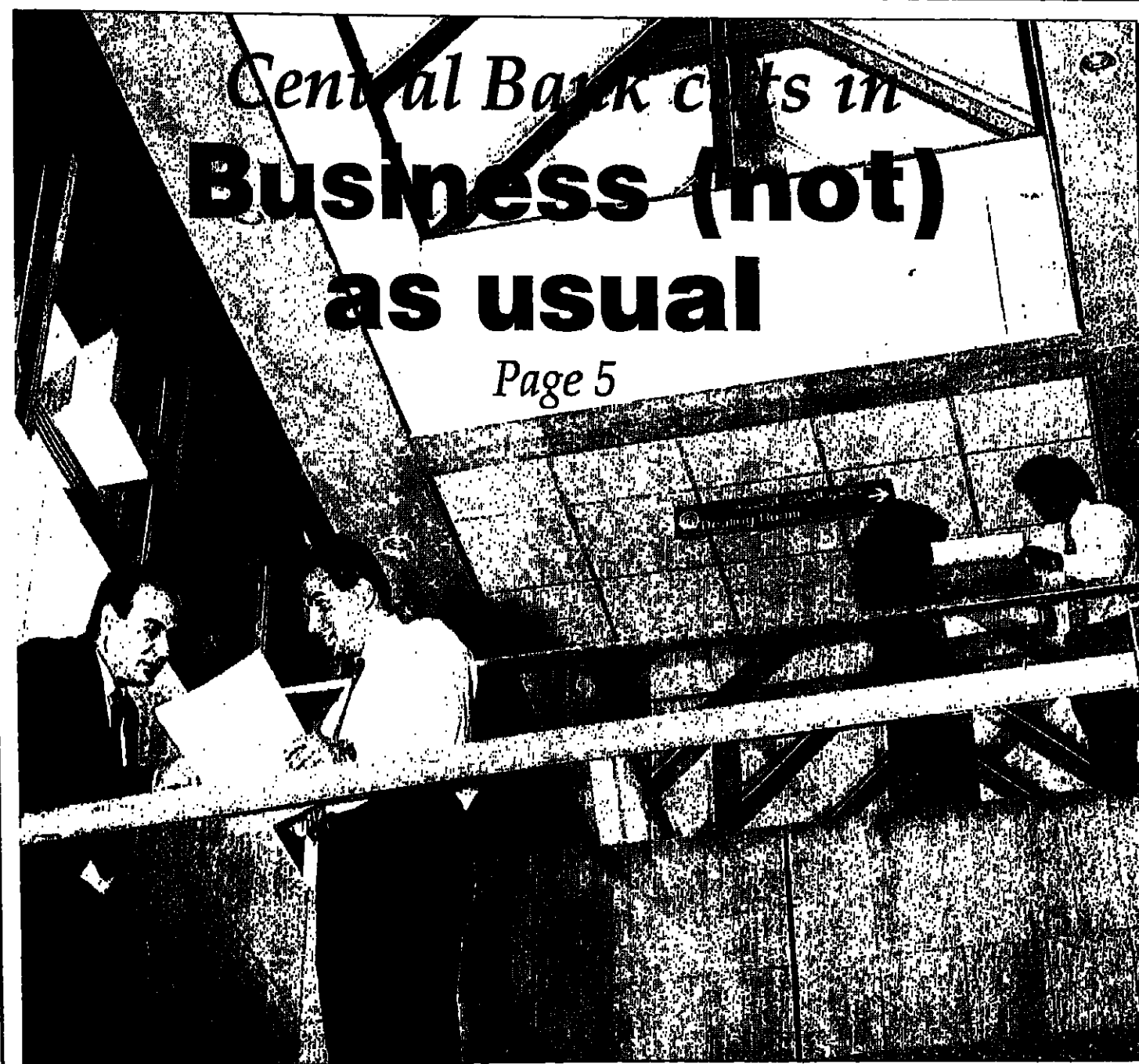
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ECONOMIC
PERSPECTIVES
AL KHAD AL IKTIRADI
Biweekly economic newsletter
This week's issue:

- Trade accord with Lebanon
- Drastic moves by CBJ
- Land for sale in Aqaba
- Al Hikma cuts the middle man
- Philips does well in Jordan

Published by Info-Media International
For subscription information call 652380



Info-Media
Tel & Fax (962) 6-648-298
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JORDAN

W E E K

An unconventional report on
Jordanian news and views

King sells London house

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein is reported to have sold his London house and used the proceeds to finance his personal donation of \$8.25 million to the restoration of the Dome of the Rock Mosque project. News of the Surrey house sale was reported by Radio Monte Carlo and was confirmed, according to Al Rai newspaper, by an official Jordanian source. Minister of Awqaf, Sheikh Izzidin Al Tamimi announced on Tuesday that Al Aqsa and Dome of the Rock Restoration Committee received the King's cheque for the said amount. The total cost of the restoration project is \$10 million. (See story on facing page).

Who's for the peace process

THE PEACE process is losing its appeal for most Jordanians.

Not much attention was given to the fifth round of bilateral talks which was held in Washington in April, and when Jordan's delegation to Brussels left last week to attend the multilateral economic development committee, the event was relegated to the inside pages of most dailies. An unofficial, non-scientific survey by the editors of this page of the views of ten Jordanian personalities found that five out of 10 believe the peace process will continue to be "a non-starter" until the end of the American elections. Nine said Jordan had no option but to participate and three actually believed progress is possible within the coming three years. Seven strongly believed that Israel will not give up an inch of land, one said it might under US pressure and one said it will launch a war and create new realities in the region. As to the multilaterals, six said the talks are premature in the absence of real progress on the Arab-Israeli issue. Two said they could be held after peace is achieved and one disqualified the

whole process.

AFM price fall normal, director says

THE GENERAL Director of the Amman Financial Market (AFM) Dr Umayyah Touqan told Ad-Dustour daily that share price fluctuations at the AFM were to be expected as a result of improved economic indicators and increased liquidity. People were looking for sound investment deals at the AFM, especially since many public companies were distributing profits ranging from 10 to 100 per cent at a time when banks' interest rates on deposits were low. But he added that the latest drop in share prices was due to share prices reaching their highest level and that prices usually fall af-



ter the distribution of profits by companies. He added that psychological reasons may also be behind the recent fall, especially after the recent Central Bank regulations. Dr Touqan said that during April dealing reached JD 130 million and share prices increased by 12 per cent. He predicted that share prices will stabilize during the week and added that this would be the right time to buy.

Jordan off the shelf

JORDANIAN-MADE products could soon end up on the shelves of American supermarkets. This is what the Exports Development and Commercial Center Corp. is trying to do with USAID and an international consultancy, both of whom are financing the project. The project aims at affording Jordanian industries with technical help to enable them to promote and market their products on a large scale in US markets. Consultants will conduct evaluation studies of certain industries and make necessary proposals. The project also aims at conducting market studies and the distribution of samples to importers, ensuring Jordan's participation in commercial exhibitions like the upcoming Chicago International

Money Matters

Average exchange rates in Jds

Tuesday 12/5/1992	
Buy	Sell
US\$ 685.0	687.00
£ 1225.5	1231.6
DM 418.3	418.3
SFR 450.7	450.7
FRF 124.4	124.4
YEN 516.3	516.3
DFL (100)	371.7
SKR 116.1	116.1
LIT 55.4	55.6
BLF (100)	203.1
BLF (10)	203.1

Gold & Silver

Gold	JD
1kg	7,575.00
21 ct	6,600
18 ct	5,700
Eng. pound	8,250
8g	
Kashad:	8,400
7g	55.00
24ct (twiss)	55.00
Silver (1kg)	150.00

Deposit Rates

Buro-deposit rates:					
	US	DEM	STG	Yen	SFR
1 mo.	3.13/16	9.3/16	10.1/8	4.11/16	9.00
2 mo.	3.7/8	9.3/16	10.1/8	4.11/16	8.7/8
3 mo.	3.15/16	9.3/16	10.1/8	4.11/16	8.13/16
6 mo.	4.3/8	9.3/16	10.1/8	4.5/8	8.1/2
1 year	4.9/16	9.3/4	10.1/3	4.5/8	8.7/16
Interbank rates (Jordan):					
Savings accounts 5.75%, Call accounts 5.75%, 1 week 6%, 1 month 7%, 2 months 7.25%, 3 months 7.50%, 1 year 8%.					
Lending rate (AAA) 12%.					
Dollar:					
DMK	SFR	STG	YEN	CAN	FRF
LAST 1.6342/40	1.5230/37	1.7761/08	132.59/64	1.2054/55	5.5060/60
Source: Amman Bank for Investment, Tel: 642701					

Marble Expo., in which Jordanian companies will participate.

Irbid has its day

MORE THAN 54,000 voters should have participated in Wednesday's elections for Irbid's municipal council. Twenty-six candidates representing two blocs are running in addition to two independent candidates. The two blocs have campaigned vigorously during the last few weeks, and observers believe it will be a close call between members of the Islamic Cooperation Bloc headed by Fakhri Swelleh and those of the Reform Bloc headed by Sami Irsheidat. Both blocs have made the services issue a central theme in their campaigns. Irbid has numerous infrastructural problems, especially in water and sewage.

Jordan & Lebanon make a deal

JORDAN AND Lebanon are adding the final touches to a new commercial treaty that will replace the present accord which dates back to 1965, the fortnightly economic newsletter Economic Perspectives (EP) reported today. It said the new agreement exempts a wide range of industrial projects of Jordanian and Lebanese origin from customs duty, which could reach up to 50 per cent.

King pledges \$8.25 million Work on Dome of the Rock to begin by end of June

AMMAN (Star) — Jerusalemites praised the initiative of His Majesty King Hussein and his government to undertake a \$10 million restoration project of the Dome of the Rock Mosque in the occupied Holy City. The King on Monday announced that he will personally donate the sum of \$8.25 million on behalf of the Hashemite family to be added to funds currently allocated by the government and estimated at JD 1.2 million (\$1.75 million).

Earlier that day the King met with representatives of the residents of the Old City and its vicinity who included religious and civil figures.

With the King's generous contribution, the Al Aqsa Mosque and Dome of the Rock Restoration Committee now has the \$10 million it needs to carry out the project which has been waiting for execution for more than five years.

For years Jordan has been appealing for Arab and Muslim financial assistance to preserve and restore holy Muslim sites in Jerusalem. Except for lip-service, the Ministry of Awqaf received nothing. Committee member Mr Faiz Jaber told Jordan Television on Monday that Arab and Muslim contributions to the preservation of Islamic shrines in Jerusalem are not worth talking about simply because no contributions have been made in spite of almost daily appeals from the Committee.

But when King Hussein intervened last week and ordered the government to commit itself to the full restoration of the Dome of the Rock, Saudi Arabia and Egypt announced plans to jointly carry out the restoration work. This was not the first time both countries made such statements. King Fahd of Saudi Arabia had committed his financial support for the project recently, but so long as Jordan and Saudi Arabia were still not on speaking terms, the Saudi contribution could not be relied on.

Egypt said last week that an Egyptian team had prepared plans to restore the Dome of the Rock and that financing will come jointly from Saudi Arabia and Egypt. The week before that Saudi Arabia announced that King Fahd will pay for the cost of restoring the dome, but gave no details.

Al Aqsa Mosque and Dome of the Rock Restoration Committee, which was formed in 1952, has made pre-qualification scheme for international contractors as far back as November last year (The Star 28 Nov. 1991), when it invited bids to carry out a three-phase project which included replacing the existing aluminum sheets of the dome with copper/zinc gilded sheets, placing new timber trusses and lead sheeting for the ambulatory roof and install a fire alarm and protection system in the Dome of the Rock.

After last week's announcement the committee qualified five out of 15 companies, all foreign, that bid for the job. The five international companies have now been asked to make their final bid in accordance with new tender documents and a deadline of 26 June has been announced. Minister of Awqaf Sheikh Izzidin Al

Tamimi said in addition to the interior restoration work, the exterior marble will also be changed. He lamented that not one Arab company had the experience to carry out the project.

The last restoration work on the mosque took place before the Israeli occupation of Jerusalem in June 1967. Since then both Al Aqsa and Dome of the Rock mosques suffered a number of arson attempts; one of them a major fire in Al Aqsa in 1969, which destroyed valuable historic furniture including Saladdin's pulpit, and caused damages to the structure. Since the occupation, Israel has been carrying out excavation

work near the foundations of Al Aqsa Mosque and extremist Zionist groups have not stopped calling for the destruction of the mosque so that a new Solomon temple can be erected in its place.

In spite of Jordan's endemic financial difficulties, it has spent over JD 164 million on Muslim shrines in Jerusalem since 1948. The Ministry of Awqaf continues to pay the salaries of Awqaf employees in Jerusalem and the West Bank.

During his meeting with Jerusalem notables on Monday, the King reiterated the Hashemite family's commitment to the protection of Islamic shrines in Jerusalem and elsewhere. He also made it clear that his initiative was not in reaction to any event, but a natural state of affairs. The King's great grandfather the late Sharif Hussein ben Ali had contributed the sum of 25,000 gold pounds to the restoration of Jerusalem's Islamic shrines early this

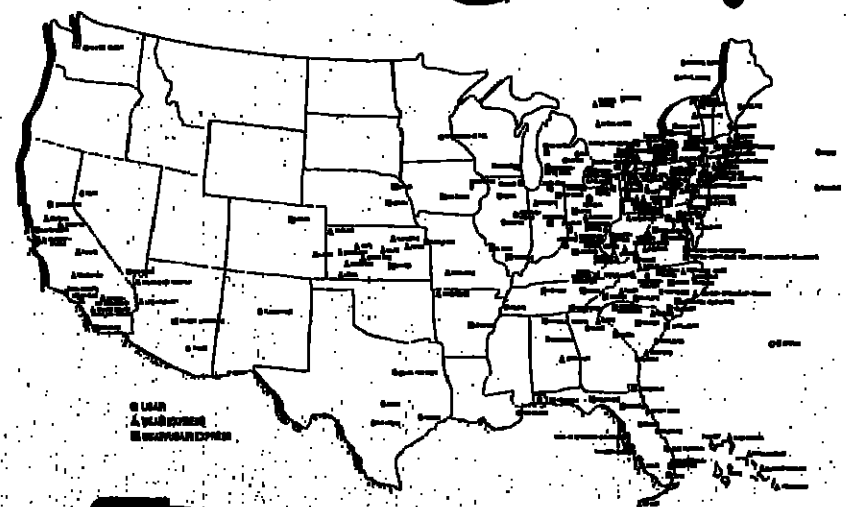


King Hussein speaking to Jerusalem notables on Monday

century. During Monday's audience with the King, Jerusalem dignitaries paid tribute to the Hashemite family's continuous support of Jerusalem's Islamic heritage and cited the efforts of the late King Abdullah, in protecting Jerusalem throughout his life.

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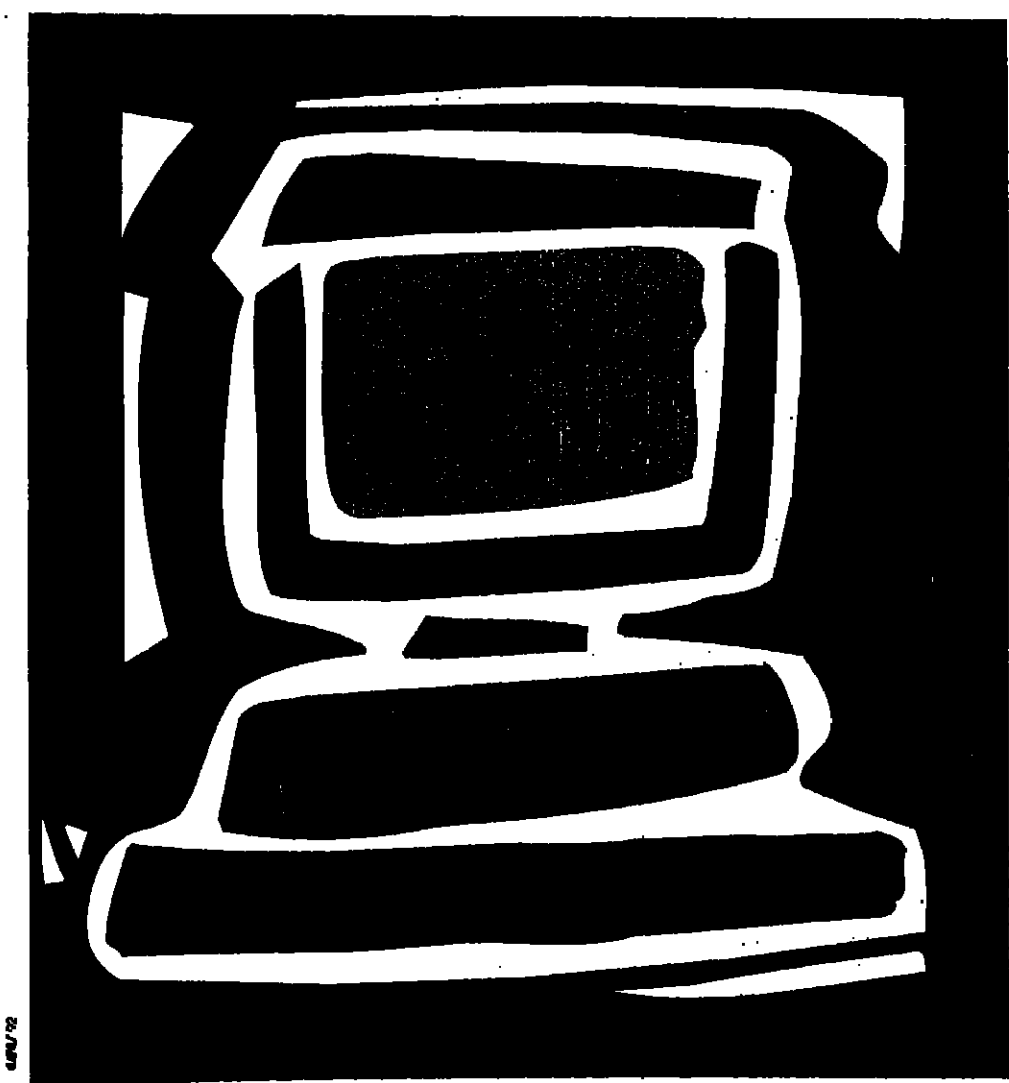


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By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to The Star

ICRC educates people on humanitarian law

NELSON MANDELA once said: "The International Committee of the Red Cross should not be thought of as what it can obtain, but as what it hinders from being done." With this in mind, the ICRC has actively been involved in the dissemination of humanitarian law through various channels, one of which is seminars, in the hope of limiting the amount of violence occurring in the world.

Such seminars are now taking place in Jordan. The ICRC delegation in Amman is holding an exhibition of more than 100 posters, slide shows and documents on the history of the Red Cross. It has also organized a number of seminars on international humanitarian law.

The exhibition and seminars

began in 1989, in celebration of the passing of 125 years since the first Geneva Convention. Last year, the show went to Hungary, and to countries in the former Soviet Republic. Participants at the Amman seminars included the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) and professionals from different fields.

Former military general in the Egyptian armed forces, General Sayed Hisham, was among the 80 participants who presented a paper on the issue of humanitarian law. His presentation covered the rights of combatants and vic-

tims in cases of armed conflict from an Arab-Islamic perspective.

His aim, as he told The Star, is to revive respect for the Arab-Islamic heritage, which embodies humanitarian law. He explained that the Middle East is known internationally to be a region of conflict, and that from his personal experience, the people from this region respond directly to the call and teachings of religion.

"You would not find an instantaneous response if you were to tell an Arab to comply with the Geneva Conventions and treat the

enemy decently, and to clothe and feed this person he has come to view as his enemy. However, ancient Arabs greatly respected the word of the Holy Quran. It delves into the treatment of prisoners of war, and from this angle hits an instantaneous and positive chord," he said.

In this light, General Hisham called for the revival of such "respect", as found in the Arab-Islamic heritage. He believes that if this can be achieved, then the Geneva Conventions would undoubtedly be followed, as they call for similar principles.

A Red Cross worker in the Jordanian desert during the Gulf crisis

The ICRC are concerned with aspects of humanitarian law in relation to the Geneva Convention of 1929, where prisoners of war (POWs) must be properly treated, must receive medical treatment and be registered and repatriated to his or her homeland on the conclusion of hostilities.

From 1864 until 1977, four Conventions were established along with two Protocols. The first convention dealt with wounded soldiers, the second with indiscriminatory care of maritime soldiers, the third with POWs and the last with the protection of civilians in war-torn zones. In 1977, Protocol I followed, stressing the protection of civilians against bombing and shelling in international conflict, while Protocol II dealt with the same issue, but in cases of internal armed conflict.

Dr Marco Bassoli, legal adviser for the Middle East International Committee of the Red Cross, defined humanitarian law as "the law protecting victims of armed conflict, whether they are civilians or wounded prisoners of war." The aim of this law, he said, is to limit violence, although he added that armed conflict has increased in recent years and that the only way to combat it is through the better dissemination of the principles of humanitarian law. According to figures from Jordan's National Red Crescent Society, Dr Bassoli said that the numbers of civilian deaths are increasing: From 15 per cent in the first World War, to 60 per cent in the Second World War, to over 90 per cent in certain cases today.

"The lack of protection for displaced persons when fleeing and going to peaceful countries is an issue to be studied," he said, "for humanitarian law protects refugees inside conflict areas only." He stressed on the need for improvement.

In order to achieve its objectives, the ICRC constantly lobbies for humanitarian law and the dissemination of its principles. And so, the Amman seminars and show were organized along these tracks. Michel Ducraux, head of the ICRC delegation in Amman, said that the first track constituted a seminar for the Jordanian Society, presenting methods of disseminating such principles. In the second, academics discussed the fourth Geneva Convention, its definition, content and its implementation or "non-implementation." The third track, he explained, concerned orienting the Armed forces in humanitarian law.

Adviser Dr Sassoli commented on the nature of the ICRC's mission, saying that it carries out bilateral steps between prisoners of war (POWs) and the government that holds them. "Thus, the Com-

Continued on facing page

By Pam Dougherty
Special to The Star

JORDAN'S BANKS are having to rethink their plans for 1992 following the introduction of strict credit ceilings by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ). The tightening of commercial bank credit is part of the governments overall restructuring program but bankers are now nervous that it will dampen business activity and undermine profits.

The overall requirement is that credit growth must be limited to nine per cent annually which, to their dismay, the banks have now discovered means no more than JD 200 million in 1992 of which JD 167 million was extended in the first quarter of the year. For each bank the CBJ requirement is that the volume of credit facilities advanced in dinars and in foreign currencies should not exceed ten times the bank's capital and reserves.

The term credit facilities includes all loans, advances and overdraft accounts of all types, bills discounted and any other direct facilities as well as the bank's investments in debenture bonds and shares. Credit facilities must not exceed the bank's total customer deposits in dinars.

How the new limits affect individual banks depends both on their current credit levels and on

the types of activity they undertake.

Any bank exceeding the limits is obliged to work out a program and a timetable in which to meet them. Until that program is worked out they have been cautioned by the CBJ against granting additional credit facilities to non-residents, granting facilities to finance transactions on the Amman Financial Market (AFM) or purchasing more securities for their own portfolios and granting facilities secured by foreign currencies. For banks which have been heavily involved in financial market trading and have made good profits from or which have granted facilities to their customers for share dealings, this is not good news.

Some banks however find it intriguing that, having in the past by-passed the CBJ requirement that they keep 20 per cent of their capital in shares because they did not consider share dealing to be the real business of banks, are

After CBJ unexpected regulations Banks revamp their 1992 credit agendas



The Governor has a lot of explaining to do

now being ordered to limit their share purchases.

Bankers believe the CBJ's unspoken expectations of the new limits are that they will encourage depositors to convert their foreign currency deposits to dinars, and banks to channel credit

towards the industrial sectors and away from less necessary expenditure. But they are afraid the new ruling will do more than that. They, and their customers, are already upset by the new limits, even if, as some banks have already discovered from discussions with the CBJ, they are not as draconian as they appear. It will be a question of setting priorities, says one banker who says he will, if he must choose, certainly favor industry.

Commentators have already pointed out what they see as contradictions between the CBJ moves and the overall aims of the structural adjustment program. At present bank deposits are at a record high and interest rates have been dropping. Low interest rates should encourage business to borrow and invest but banks are now restricted in their lending.

On the other hand a restriction on imports brought about by credit restrictions helps to cut consumption and should encourage domestic savings. But what happens to the savings if interest rates are unattractively low and bank lending is restricted? And how can Jordan's hoped for export-led recovery continue if industry's access to credit is limited?

Bankers believe a certain

amount of reorganization will take place as companies move from over extended banks to those which still have credit capacity but they are not sure that this will happen so tidily that no "worthy" enterprise misses out on credit.

The Amman Financial Market has already shown its sensitivity to the changes. The share price index dropped from 165.8 to 158.2 in just over one week while trading declined from JD 7.12 million in early April to JD 1.73 million last week. As AFM General Manager Umayyah Touqan has pointed out, investors usually buy heavily between around December and March in anticipation of good company annual reports and dividends and then take their profits in April. But analysts also believe that investors have been selling shares in the belief that the CBJ credit move was designed to limit credit for share dealing.

Limiting the credit available for share speculation may be a good move in itself, it is after all a fairly unproductive use of capital — except in the unlikely circumstance of the successful speculator then going on to invest in productive industry. What is unfortunate however, is when sudden changes on the financial market and shifts in credit policy cause unease in the business community and undermine its always fragile confidence.

Overall, bankers and their customers are not happy and it seems the CBJ will have quite a job to do in explaining its policy, both to the professionals and to the general public, in order to avoid an overall loss business confidence. ■

'A region in crisis'

ESCWA report warns of bad times ahead

"A LOST decade" is the stark assessment of the 1980s for the Middle East region given by Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) Executive Secretary Tayseer Abdel Jaber. At a press conference on Monday to present ESCWA's annual survey of economic and social developments in the ESCWA region, which covers the GCC countries, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, and Yemen, Dr Abdel Jaber had ample facts and figures to back up his assessment.

A decline in GDP of 4 per cent in 1990 and 5 per cent in 1991, a ten per cent annual decline in per capita income, inflation of up to 50 per cent in some countries, a sharp drop in currency values (notably Lebanon and Iraq) and a combined foreign debt of at least \$154 billion, all point to a region in crisis.

The Gulf crisis and war of 1990/91 added new problems to the chronic pattern of the 80s. Billions of dollars went to fund the war, billions more were lost in the occupation of Kuwait, the war with Iraq and the continuing economic embargo of that country. The return of an estimated two million workers from the Gulf, mainly Egyptians, Jordanians and Yemenis, has robbed those countries of remittances and added enormous pressures to their job markets and the demand for basic social services.

Also disturbing are the clear imbalances within the region between the oil-producing countries of the GCC (Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates and Oman) and the other countries: GDP in the GCC countries declined by one per cent in 1991, that of the non-oil producing countries fell by 12

per cent. Inflation is rampant in Lebanon and Iraq, uncomfortably high in Egypt and Jordan, low in the GCC countries. The latter have incurred foreign debts, particularly Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, the main underwriters of the Gulf War, but their oil revenues should ensure manageable repayment. Even with enormous debt forgiveness, Syria and Egypt are struggling to cope with their debts.

And will the decade of the nineties be any better? Dr Abdel Jaber said there are a number of factors which will influence prospects for an improvement. Oil prices and revenues will continue to be the defining feature of the GCC economies and will affect their relations with the other ESCWA states. The reconstruction of Kuwait, Lebanon, and

Iraq, once the sanctions are lifted, will also have a positive flow-on effect. But the two crucial areas are the peace negotiations and trends in regional cooperation.

The outcome of the peace talks will affect stability and prospects of the region, for better or worse, throughout the current decade and into the next century. And Dr Abdel Jaber was moved to question how long it will be before the competing and divided Arab states move to a situation of real cooperation and put an end to the waste of human and physical resources that now marks them.

"This is a war-torn region," Dr Abdel Jaber told the press conference, there should now be a greater awareness among its population so that they will begin to call for regional cooperation. ■

PD

ICRC educates people on humanitarian law

Continued from facing page

mittee is a natural body that plays a mediatory role between two fighting parties, on behalf of the victims of war," he said.

During the Gulf War, the ICRC negotiated with the Iraqi government on behalf of foreign POWs. Prisoners were released, and in cooperation with the Iranian Red Crescent Society, the Committee set up camps to accommodate these 60,000 refugees at the border. Iraqi POWs were visited in Turkey by representatives of the ICRC, and the Committee was also involved with the Kurdish refugees and displaced civilians. Food, shelter and medical aid sufficient for five-member families were given to some 200,000 Kurdish refugees in northern Iran.

With 1992 marking the ICRC exhibition's Arab world tour, Amman's Royal Cultural Centre has been chosen as the first venue, where the exhibition will run until 21 May. Documentation in the Amman show has been translated into Arabic, while similar shows will be held in September in Cairo, under the auspices of the Arab League, and will later tour a Maghreb country — possibly Tunisia. ■

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Images of Andalusia in modern Spain

An ambitious new exhibition of Islamic masterpieces produced during the reign of Muslim dynasties in Spain uses the Alhambra complex in Granada as its historic setting.

By Naseem Abdallah

THE UNPARALLELED richness of Islamic art created in Spain from the eighth to the 15th centuries is being shown for the first time to an audience of hundreds of thousands on both sides of the Atlantic.

Al-Andalus: The Art of Islamic Spain, bringing together 130 works from 15 countries and nearly 70 institutions, is an extraordinary event. It is the first show of its kind ever to be staged in the historic setting of Alhambra, the great Islamic monument in Granada. From Alhambra, the exhibition will travel to New York for a three-month showing at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The occasion is historic for another reason. Although a large number of the exhibits are from the treasuries of Spanish museums, monasteries and cathedrals, many other masterpieces are returning to Spain after hundreds of years in collections in other parts of Europe, Russia, North Africa, the Middle East and the United States.

The dazzling range of artefacts includes all the major arts that Muslim craftsmen perfected in Spain — from bronze, silver and ivory objects to jewelry and weapons. Scientific instruments feature alongside painted and glazed ceramics, textiles and carpets, illustrated and illuminated manuscripts, and architectural elements of marble, stucco and wood.

The exhibition is on display at the Alhambra until 7 June, after which it travels to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, where it will be on view from 1 July to 27 September.

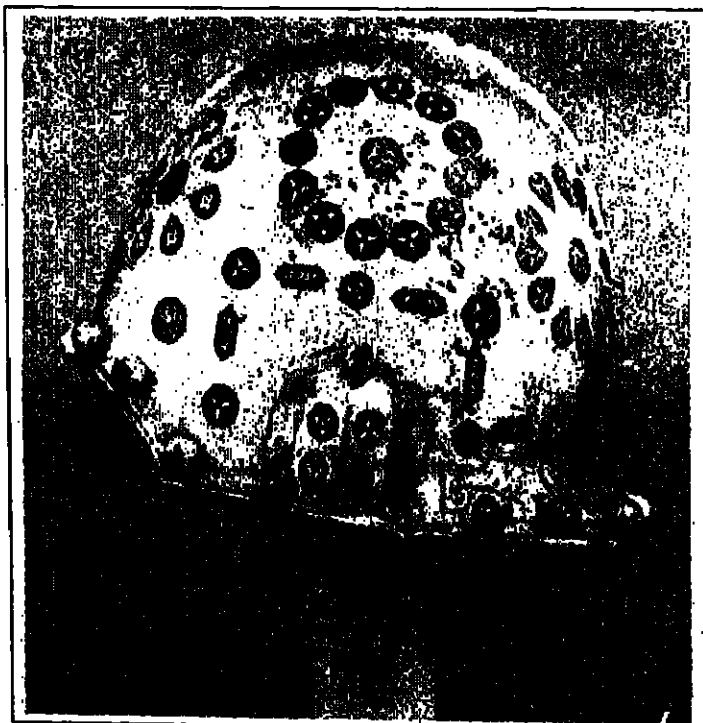
The history of Islamic presence in Spain is long and in the end tragic. On 19 July in 711, a Muslim army of Arabs and Berbers defeated the forces of the Visigothic king, Roderick, near the southern coast of Spain. The victory marked the advent of Islam in Spain which until then was inhabited largely by Christian Hispano-Romans and Jews.

Over the next seven years, the entire Iberian peninsula, with the exception of parts of Galicia and Asturias in the far north, was brought under Muslim rule. The new rulers called the newly created Islamic land Al Andalus, a term which appeared on coins as early as 716 and was thought to derive from the Berber name for the Vandals, who once lived on the Iberian Peninsula. According to another theory, however, the Islamic conquerors might have been thinking of the mythical Atlantis, which was associated with the Atlantic Ocean.

The first great period of the arts of Al Andalus began in Cordoba during the reign from 756 to 788 of the Emir Abd Al Rahman I, a member of the Umayyad dynasty from Syria. This flowering of the arts culminated during the reign of Abd Al Rahman III from 912 to 961, who claimed for himself the title of Caliph. In the 10th century, the arts of the caliphate, based in Cordoba and in the heart of palace city of Madinat Al Zahra, set the standard for sophis-



Cordoba Stag (above) in bronze from the Spanish caliph period; Jineta Sword (right) from the Nasrid period in steel, silver gilt, cloisonne enamel and ivory; parade helmet also from the Nasrid period in steel, gold, silver and cloisonne enamel



tication, elegance and luxury in the Mediterranean world and in Europe.

Religious arts from this early period included Qurans and lamps, and their ornamentation was abstract and meditative in nature; while court arts, which included carved ivories, luxurious textiles, metal sculpture, and glazed ceramics, were more exuberantly decorated, frequently with human and animal forms.

Represented in the exhibition is the famous rich and vivid carpet from a museum in Pamplona. Made for the son of the powerful ruler Al Mansur, it is covered with images of warriors, animals, hunters and kings. Also on view is a silver gilt casket from the treasury of the Girona cathedral, made for Hisham II, a Caliph whose name also appears on a rare and precious textile fragment from the period.

Another masterpiece is the famous bronze fountain decoration of a stag, which may have spewed water into one of the garden basins of the legendary palace at Madinat Al Zahra. Gifts made for the family of Caliph Abd Al Rahman III or that of his son Al Hakam II were certainly fashioned in the workshops of this palace city and perhaps graced its halls.

The arts of the Taifa kingdoms that followed in the 11th century elaborated on the earlier traditions. Examples of this period include one of the earliest dated astrolabes, now in the German national museum in Nuremberg, and a monumental bronze griffin now in Pisa.

In the 11th and 12th centuries, the Almohads, followed by the Almohads, both fundamentalist

towers in Gibraltar and Ubeda during 12th and 14th century campaigns and spirited to Fez as symbols of victory. There, embellished with Islamic decorative metalwork, they were installed as lamps in the mosque.

On loan from the Madrasa ben Youssef in Marrakesh is a stately ceremonial basin in carved marble with eagles, lions, and griffins, the largest of all surviving ablution fonts from Al Andalus. Stylistically, it relates to Mesopotamian and Sassanian prototypes, as well as to the decoration of the palace in Mshatta, Jordan.

A unique, richly colored Almohad battle banner seized by the Christians during the Almohad campaigns is also included, and



is a magnificent example of the military arts of the time. This large silk banner, probably captured by Ferdinand II, contains complex geometric patterning, elegant cursive inscriptions from the Quran, and an eight-pointed star as its central motif.

The only figurative manuscript to survive from Al Andalus, the *Hadith Bayad wa Riyad*, from the collection of the Vatican in Rome, never before seen outside the Vatican, is also featured in the exhibition. It includes 14 vivid miniatures that depict the trials of a pair of young lovers against the landscape and architecture of Al Andalus.

The defeat of the Almohads by the advancing Christian armies left under Islamic rule only the tiny kingdom of Granada. Ruled by the Nasrid dynasty from 1232 to 1492, the city finally surrendered to the military forces of King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella, marking the end of Islamic hegemony on the Iberian peninsula. Symbols of Nasrid rule at the critical moment before its final decline are included, among them the finest examples of luxury arms of Al Andalus in existence. Three lavishly ornamented swords, among only a

small number of arms surviving from the period, are on loan from the National Library in Paris and the state collections in Kassel — a Madrid museum.

One of the swords, with a spherical pommel hilt and carved grip, is associated with the last Nasrid monarch, Muhammad XII, also known as Boabdil. It is shown together with a parade helmet, now in the Metropolitan Museum collection, which has been also linked through generations of romantic lore, to Boabdil. This unusually ornate open-faced helmet is wrought of gilt steel, with tooled designs and stylized inscriptions and multi-colored cloisonné enamels. It is considered one of the finest extant examples of Islamic armor.

The Alhambra itself is a creation of the Nasrid dynasty and the last great Islamic monument to be erected in Spain. Begun in the 14th century and constructed over a period of several decades, the architectural complex of fortress, palaces and gardens looks down from a hill top above the city of Granada. The exhibition is installed within its royal precincts, in the Hall of the Ambassadors, the Hall of the Two Sisters, and the Gallery of the Kings. The palace halls are incorporated into the exhibition and provide a dazzling backdrop against which the precious fragments of Spanish Islamic culture are displayed. In this way, *Al-Andalus: The Art of Islamic Spain* recreates the historical experience that is unique in the west of Spain and awakens for most people a lost civilization.

Numerous sumptuous works of the type that would have furnished the Alhambra palace complex itself are brought together, helping an understanding of the domestic accoutrements of Nasrid palace life. Among the most outstanding are two elaborate lustre-painted earthenware vases on loan from a collection in Palermo and from the State Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg, returning to Spain for the first time in centuries. About four feet high, such vessels represent the pinnacle of achievement in the art of Nasrid ceramics.

The exhibition was made possible by an international cast of museum curators, designers and technicians at both the Metropolitan Museum and the Alhambra. The challenge to adapt the exhibition to the monument resulted in novel solutions for both the presentation and the protection of the works of art. Nearly all the objects are displayed in cases custom-made and internally lit, so they filter ultraviolet light and meet the highest standards of climate control.

In areas where direct, natural light must be avoided, windows are temporarily sealed, without in any way altering the monument itself, while light projected upward from fixtures in the cases illuminates the rich decoration of interior walls. Such inner spaces are thus more vividly visible to the spectator, perhaps for the first time. In view of the setting offered, many museum buffy from North America as indeed from other parts of the world, are expected to head for Granada rather than wait until the exhibition comes to New York. ■

Academic File

Naseem Abdallah is a writer and researcher based in Washington, DC.

Afghanistan's intriguing chess game

Left alone, the Afghans can do fine

The problems faced by Afghans are innumerable but many of them are not new. Left to themselves, the Afghans are quite capable of resolving their differences peacefully.

By Mojtaba Shariati

TEHRAN — Are the repeated references to Afghanistan's ethnic divide and "warring factions" a sign of the world's eagerness to wash its hands of this tragedy and lay the blame squarely on the shoulders of the Afghans themselves? Perhaps so, but the Afghans are not blameless.

There is no doubt that the infighting is further damaging the war-torn country but it also provides the international community with loopholes through which it can escape responsibility — political, social or humanitarian. With several wars raging in different parts of the globe, the world community can hardly be expected to pay attention to those who seem to be doing so little to help themselves!

The problems of Afghanistan have never been simple. With scores of ethnic groups jostling to keep their interests in the forefront there has always been ample room for bitter and deep-rooted hostilities. But while chronic disagreements seem to have been the pattern of Afghan politics for centuries, when left alone, the Afghans were not only able to find ways of avoiding conflict but together successfully warded off the might of the British and Russian empires and maintained their independence while their neighbors to the east and north were conquered.

Decades of outside interference, foreign occupation and a very bloody proxy war between the superpowers have eroded the very fabric of Afghan society and have been the cause of further fragmentation, with new divisions emerging endemically. Religious differences are being fanned along by neighboring countries which hope to see a government in Kabul that mirrors their own ideology.

The real tragedy of Afghanistan may lie in the trust it invested in "friends" bearing generous offers of new roads, communications and airports. This certainly was true of the aid packages offered by both the former USSR and the USA. It was these same roads that provided easy access to Soviet troops when they invaded the country in 1979.

The US offers of development aid were closely linked to American military interests and only served to plunge successive Afghan governments into the arms of the USSR.

Agricultural projects proved detrimental to the interests of the Afghan people and were used to satisfy the needs of the Soviet Union. Farmers were forced to grow cotton for export instead of wheat to feed the local population. Wheat, in turn, had to be imported from the USSR. A power and irrigation project in the Nangarhar Valley produced crops entirely for Soviet needs. Afghanistan earned an annual income of Af\$ 120 million (\$ 1.5m) but the

costs amounted to Af\$ 200 million (\$ 2.5m).

Sadly, exploitation was not from the superpowers alone. Neighboring countries like Pakistan used Afghanistan's links with the Soviet Union to extract aid from the US. General Zia Ul Haq made his Islamic *Jamaat-i-Islami* party in charge of humanitarian and military aid to the Afghans after the December 1979 invasion.

This allowed him to favor groups whose interests were at par with his own and made his position very attractive to the Americans, who coughed up a \$3.2 billion aid package which in turn helped him consolidate his position at home.

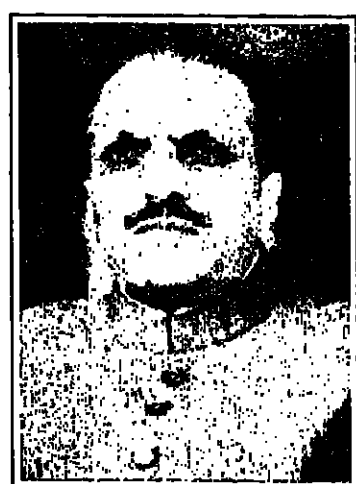
At the time the new revolutionary regime in Iran was too busy with its own upheavals to get involved with the problems of Afghanistan but once it became apparent to them that General Zia Ul Haq was using his influence in favor of Sunni groups which were taking refuge in Pakistan, the Iranians carried out a number of military offensives in Hazarajat.

The area holds little attachment to political party systems and local leaders were accused of digging up old feudal rivalries. Four thousand people were killed and the operation resulted in major divisions in the Hazara and Shia communities. Eight major groups were created with conflicting allegiances to the Iranian government. Apart from causing further bloodshed the divisions have become even more complex and can only serve to further complicate the country's problems.

Geographically, Afghanistan lies at the meeting point of newly emerging Islamic powers — Cen-



Ahmad Shah Massoud leading his men to Kabul



Gen. Zia: Favoring Sunnis

in refugee camps) the obstacles are immense. The Afghans may be more in need of world attention now than when they were at war.

The returning refugees and the millions of displaced persons within the country will need support rather than interference of the world community. The real test for the world community is now. Afghanistan is in dire need of help. Will the world come forward and help? Or will it, as in the face of the Kurd's plight, resort to half-measures?

Afghanistan's ethnic groups have proved in the past that, despite their diversity and occasional quarrels, they are capable of living together. If the world stops interfering with their internal affairs there is little doubt that they will be able to do so again. ■

Academic File

Mojtaba Shariati is a writer and researcher based in Tehran.

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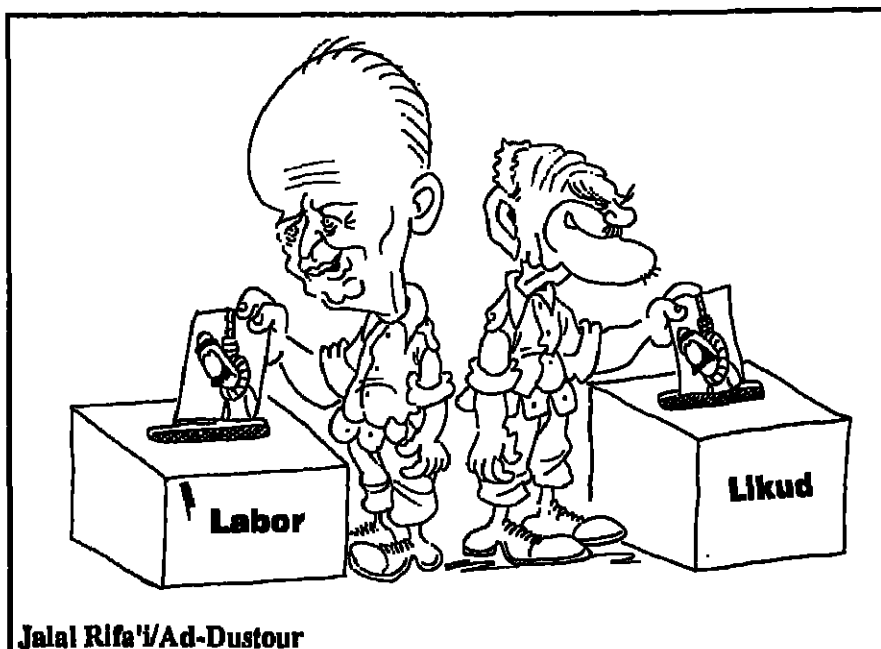
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Eastern Art
REPORT



Jalal Rifa'Ad-Dustour

Our Say....

Swimming against the tide

ISRAEL'S LEADERSHIP has every right to denounce the American statements affirming US support of UN General Assembly resolution 194 on the right of Palestinians to return to their homeland. The statements coincided with the opening of a multilateral session in Canada this week on the refugee dimension of the Middle East problem. Israel has ignored US pleas to participate in the meetings because Palestinian delegates included people from the diaspora.

The Israeli reaction to the American statements came from both extremes of the Israeli political spectrum. Both Labor and Likud were joined by a plethora of other factions in condemning the American stand. Some even demanded that the peace process be suspended unless and until the Palestinians renounce their right to return to the land of their forefathers.

The Israeli reaction, typical as it is of the hard-line mentality that manipulates Israeli politics today, is astounding. The Israelis, who so far have yielded nothing in more than seven months of negotiations with the Arabs, since the launching of the Madrid peace conference, are now demanding that the victims renounce their basic rights as human beings. Having made it clear before that Israel will never quit the land it forcibly occupied in the war of 1967, that it will not allow the Palestinians to practice their inalienable right to self-determination, that it will not permit the establishment of a Palestinian state, it now asks the Palestinians to surrender their right to return to their homes and lands — or be compensated for them as the choice is clearly theirs.

There is something terribly wrong in the way Israel views the Palestinians, the Arabs and indeed the rest of the world. Israel's existence today as a state has nothing to do with metaphysical forces, as some Israeli fanatics believe, but because of the legitimacy it was bestowed upon it by the powers of the day who in turn controlled the United Nations. It is because of this that Israel has insisted for decades that the Arab world recognize its existence as a state within the framework of the UN resolutions which created it in the first place.

It is ironic that this very entity, which was created by a General Assembly resolution, should now seek to undermine these very resolutions and deny them to a people with whom it "shares" the same land and sky, and even common destiny.

Israel's concept of the peace process is proving every day to be both myopic and distorted. While the Arabs, particularly the Palestinians, and the rest of the world see this process as powered and maintained through international law, UN resolutions and international legality, Israel sees it as a process aimed at stripping the Palestinians of their legal rights to return, to decide their own future and to live in freedom. This outrageous perception is cemented daily by Israel's confiscation of Palestinian lands, lands and its systematic destruction of Palestinian institutions and civil bodies. In short, Israel's only objective where the Palestinians are concerned is to assassinate their culture, rights and aspirations.

This objective will never be achieved, and some Israelis are beginning to realize the futility of their efforts. Once it was said that the Palestinians were moving against the tide of history and of life itself. Today the same can be said of the Israelis. ■

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Be consistent!

To the editor,

I HAVE been a proud of your paper since its beginning, and I have taken great interest in its evolution. Nevertheless, in past weeks some disturbing traits have emerged, namely erratic dates of publication, unpredictable format sizes and an inconsiderate use of advertising.

Let me expand on these criticisms. As a regular reader, I have come to expect to be able to buy my favourite weekly on a set day, namely Thursday. More than once have I not been able to find The Star on this said day. To have to wait for its delayed publication until a Saturday, or even its non-publication is most dreary. I have even had the surprise of seeing it before its expected publication day. Such variance, while original, does not speak much for the seriousness which I am sure The Star is aiming for.

My second point is the format of the paper. I have to admit that I am rather biased towards the tabloid format, and that I did not like the large format issue dated 28 March. As a matter of fact the smaller format is more handy, and I do believe it reinforces the originality of the Star when compared to more traditional newspapers.

Last, but not least, there is the inconsiderate use of publicity. Although I do not deny the necessity of advertisements, it is nevertheless very bothersome to see the cover of The Star being eaten by one (or more) large insert (s). It damages both the effectiveness of the advert and the impact of the front page. One expects the cover to be an image of the contents of the paper, thus I believe that by relocating publicity to certain key pages within the paper, this will both increase their impact and allow for a more appealing front page.

However before closing, I would like to congratulate The Star on a splendid last issue. Tackling delicate subjects such as child abuse and AIDS was both brave and educational. Furthermore I feel the need to reiterate my admiration for your paper, which I think has been able to show a better and more informative view than its competitors.

Andrew S. Newhammer,
Amman.

Stop Armenian aggression

To the editor:

I WISH to bring to your attention the tragic situation in and around Nagorno-Karabagh. Since 1988 an undeclared war has been waged against Azerbaijan by Armenia with a clearly stated goal: Annexing Karabagh to Armenia. To now, the only result has been the suffering of thousands of people, mass killings and unbelievable atrocities, following the massacres perpetrated by Armenian forces in the Azeri town of Khojaly on 25 and 26 February.

The present fighting in and around Karabagh threatens the security of the Caucasus region as well as the peace and stability of the world. According to reports, Armenians have also spread their attacks to towns and villages outside Nagorno-Karabagh, thus creating a very dangerous atmosphere for the whole region. This can only lead to an all-out war between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

It should be borne in mind that throughout history these territories have never been under Armenian rule. Nagorno-Karabagh has always been an Azerbaijani territory and is recognized as such in the decisions of the CSCE adopted on February 28 and March 14 1992. That is the reason why Armenia now denies its expansionist aims and tries to hide them behind the principle of self-determination.

In fact, Armenia has always based its past territorial claims on dubious historical rights, a concept reminiscent of the darkest days of humanity in the most recent history. The last tactical manoeuvre cannot therefore veil the true nature of the Karabagh dispute. As they state themselves, "it hinges on one word: Nationalism", a demand which was "irredentist" from the outset. This extremist conception of nationalism leads Armenians throughout the world to a collective folly.

All forms of extremism cause suffering, not only to the victims but also to the perpetrators — and history is full of lessons in this respect. It is a fact that better armed and equipped Armenians gained military and territorial advantages in Nagorno-Karabagh. But it should not be forgotten that peace cannot be built on military achievements and bloodshed. The use of force creates more problems than it solves.

Giving support to such a policy will only result in harming the interests of the Armenians. Should they continue to rely on the use of force to achieve their aims, a true and lasting peace will never be reached in the region. Such an approach would also wipe out the chances of establishing good relations with Turkey, locking them in their own geographical location. Armenians and friends of Armenia should be helped to realize that Turkish people, already moved by the recent atrocities committed against their brothers in Karabagh, cannot take a neutral stance against all-out Armenian aggression in the region.

We warmly welcome the decisions taken by the CSCE to convene a Peace Conference in the near future. Turkey would welcome any effort to promote peace and security in the region. In fact, it is the Armenians who will decide the future of any relationships. If they abandon irredentist aggression and open up a new era of good relations, the Turkish nation will be ready to cooperate with them to build a better future for new generations.

All Dincer, MP
Head of Foreign Affairs Committee,
Turkish Grand National Assembly.

Letters to the editor should be sent to P O Box 9313, Amman, Jordan. The Star reserves the right to edit the letters for reasons of space or clarity. All letters must be signed.

The Star
Jordan's political, economic
and cultural weekly

An independent political, economic and cultural weekly, published every Thursday in Amman by Media Services International (Info-Media).

Editorial & Advertising: Fax & Telephone 648298, P.O. Box 9313, Amman - Jordan.

Typesetting, layout and processing: done exclusively on Apple Macintosh Desk-top publishing system.

Images scanned on Hewlett-Packard scanners.

Publisher

&

Editor-in-Chief

Osama El-Sherif

Emile Habiby

Why I am accepting their prize

EMILE HABIBY does not look like a man enjoying an outstanding achievement. He is the first "Israeli" Arab to win the Israel Prize for Literature, which was presented to him on Israel's independence day. The prize has always been awarded in the past to Hebrew writers.

This has caused Habiby deep anxiety. He has been forced to wonder whether or not to accept the prize. Should he say yes, as a chance to ring pride to "Israeli" Arabs, who constitute nearly 18 per cent of the country's population? Or should he refuse it, as many Palestinian critics in the occupied territories and the Arab world have demanded, on the grounds that to take it is to hand a propaganda coup to the Jewish state?

Habiby, who is best known for his five novels — written in Arabic but widely translated — acknowledges that Israel may use his acceptance as a tool against radical Arab factions and to whitewash the government's intransigent stance in the peace process. He also acknowledges that accepting such an award, when censorship of Arab writing inside Israel is widespread, could be viewed as a sell-out.

But he insists he will use his prize as a platform to promote the struggle for equality for his 740,000 fellow Palestinians who are citizens inside Israel. He was nominated for the award by a panel of Israeli writers and intellectuals, although the decision of the government to back it caused great surprise. "The prize," he says, "is a sort of recognition of the Palestinian culture in Israel as part of the developing Israeli heritage."

He also promises to use it to further the cause of those in the occupied territories fighting for an independent state.

Habiby's dilemma exemplifies the plight of all "Israeli" Arabs since the founding of the Jewish state in 1948. These were the Arabs who escaped expulsion by Israeli forces during the "War of Independence", or who were far enough away from the fighting not to have been terrorized into flight. Unlike those who became refugees, these Palestinians stayed behind to live as Israeli citizens.

In the years that ensued they were reviled by Palestinians outside Israel and by the rest of the Arab world. In Israel, they suffered harsh discrimination, including military rule over their communities. But instead of resisting, they chose to accept



"We are the proof of the failure, to a certain extent of this conspiracy to eliminate the Palestinian presence from here," Habiby

the status quo for pragmatic reasons. Their ambivalent condition is described by Habiby in one of his most famous books, "The Pessimist", which suggests that an "Israeli" Arab may be pessimistic because his country has been taken by Israel, and because his friends and family have been expelled. But he may be optimistic, too, because he was able to remain in his homeland and survive.

Habiby himself has always had a little more of the "opt" than the "pess" in his pessimism, helped, perhaps, by a sardonic sense of humor. Born in 1922 into an Arab Christian family, he grew up in Haifa and became a leading figure in the Palestine Communist Party in the forties, which he later represented in the Knesset.

He has always been a pragmatist about the "Israeli" Arab cause. In 1947 he called on Arabs to accept partition of Palestine as set out by the United Nations and has always argued against violent struggle. "After 1948 the Arab nations spoke about Arab unity but we never had a place in it. They considered that we were able to stay because we paid an expensive political price for co-operation — that we were traitors," he says, angrily growling the last word. "We had no other alternative but to rely on ourselves from the very start."



PROTESTS: Lebanese took to the streets all over the country last week to protest price hikes and the falling lira bringing down the government of Prime Minister Omar Karame. A new premier was to be announced after Syrian leader Hafez Assad and Lebanese President Elias Hrawi held talks in the Syrian capital this week.

Habiby is well used to the jibes from outside Palestinians, who accuse "Israeli" Arabs of "spinelessness" and "collaboration". "I often hear: when will the Intifada come to Arab society inside Israel? But our situation is altogether contrary to the situation in the occupied territories. We knew from the beginning that we had chosen the road of non-violent struggle and through that we had to try to achieve peace with the state of occupation."

And he has had his own experience of intimidation at the hands of Israelis, as he recounts with bitterness. His family's house in Haifa were confiscated and his brothers expelled in 1948. Under military occupation he was beaten and refused the right to travel. "Until 1966, when military rule over us was lifted, we were like the black people in South Africa," he says. "The soldiers intimidated and beat me: they did not even know my name when I was a member of the Knesset."

The accusations from fellow Arabs clearly still hurt. He is aware that they are right to say he is accepting the award at a time when hopes for peace remain tenuous, and when the ruling Likud government, seeking re-election in June, has been blazoning its opposition to a Palestinian state. He also knows that "Israeli" Arabs, whose non-violent struggle has been patchy, are hard-pressed to claim that they have full rights as citizens. Two weeks ago an "Israeli" Arab poet was convicted of publishing verse that the judge ruled might have inflamed the Intifada. Habiby said at the time that if the poet had been jailed — he was given a suspended sentence — he would have rejected his award.

Habiby suggests that his Palestinian critics are motivated by guilt. "This is a dilemma very deep in the conscience of our people — especially the Palestinian refugees. They feel that they have done something wrong. Why did their mothers and fathers not prefer dying in their homeland to being expelled from their homes? When we show ourselves and demonstrate the value of our decision to stay in the homeland, their guilt increases."

Habiby also believes that the realism of the "Israeli" Arabs over the years may now be influencing the more moderate Palestinian leadership negotiating in the peace talks. All the delegation leaders backed his decision to accept the prize.

At the same time, he argues that by staying in Israel, the "Israeli" Arabs have achieved a remarkable feat: preventing the expulsion of all Arabs from the Jewish state. "We are the proof of the failure, to a certain extent of this conspiracy to eliminate the Palestinian presence from here... We are happy that we stayed. We have no other source of deliverance but from inside ourselves, inside Israel. We consider we have no other homeland but this country... whatever happens."

The Independent

Regional ROUND-UP

■ **TUNIS:** The 90-member PLO Central Council met last week in the Tunisian capital in an attempt to iron out differences among Palestinian factions over the peace process. The council decided at the end of its meetings to continue Palestinian participation in the bilateral and multilateral peace negotiations. Supporters of the peace process who make up the majority in the council argued for continued Palestinian participation in the process, saying that peace negotiations advanced the Palestinian cause to the forefront and broke the PLO isolation imposed in the wake of the Gulf War.

Four members of the Palestine delegation to the bilateral peace talks with Israel addressed the PCC, defying an ineffective Israeli ban on contacts with the organization. Faisal Al Hussaini, Hanan Ashrawi, Ghassan Al Khatib and Zabira Kamal travelled to Tunis and addressed the council on the need to continue Palestinian participation in the peace process. Meanwhile, His Majesty King Hussain made a telephone conversation with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat which covered Jordanian-Palestinian coordination.

In Brussels, a working group on economic development in the multilateral phase of the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations held a two-day meeting. The Jordanian team was led by Fayez Tarawneh. The Jordanian delegation submitted a working paper tackling the economic imbalance in the Middle East. Israel, meanwhile, has reaffirmed its boycott of two sessions of the peace talks because Palestinians from outside the occupied territories are taking part in the negotiations. Israel rejected a last-minute American plea to participate in the talks. The two sessions are to tackle the question of refugees and economic development. Israel attended the three other sessions that began this week, including Monday's arms control talks in Washington.

■ **WASHINGTON:** A State Department report said Israel's settlements in the occupied Arab territories have increased by 25 per cent over the past year and housing construction outpaced the government's ability to entice new residents. The report reflected Israel's determination to tighten its grip on the occupied Palestinian land at a time when it has entered into US sponsored peace talks with the Arabs. The State Department report said some 245,000 Israeli settlers live in about 250 settlements in the occupied territories.

■ **TEHRAN:** Iranians elected supporters of President Hashemi Rafsanjani and shunned his anti-western rivals in runoff ballot. In results announced for 87 seats, only nine incumbent from the hard-line parliament won re-election.

■ **TRIPOLI:** An envoy of UN Secretary General arrived in Tripoli with a letter from Boutros Ghali asking Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi to comply with UN demands for the hand over of two Libyans accused of bombing a Pan Am plane over Lockerbie, Scotland in 1988. UN sources said the letter suggests UN observers attend the trial of the accused.

■ **KABUL:** Rival rebel factions have agreed to extend their cease-fire for three more days to try to bring peace to the capital. The truce between *Heab Islami*, led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, and those backing the new Islamic government, was due to end Saturday morning. But Hekmatyar again threatened to set a new deadline for sweeping militia force out of Kabul, claiming the backing of many guerrilla commanders.

By Shirley Rizvi

Los Angeles

Capital of the Third World?

WHEN MY 12-year-old niece saw me reading *Los Angeles — Capital of the Third World*, her reaction came as no surprise. "Is there another Los Angeles?" she asked. Hollywood's myths seem well entrenched in the minds of those who have not experienced downtown LA firsthand. Celluloid images, since the time of the silent movies, have presented the city as a sunbathed wonderland of riches and glamor where every house is fringed with a lush green lawn.

David Rieff's book would disappoint and shock and hopefully enlighten those who, quite like my niece, have known only Hollywood's version of Los Angeles. Rieff says in the book he encountered similar reactions when he told friends in New York of his plan to write a book on Los Angeles.

He recalls in the prologue that "when people outside Southern California spoke of LA they were not speaking of a real place at all... the name Los Angeles did not refer to a city any more than the name Hollywood referred to a neighborhood within that city. What they were talking about was a fantasy, a place that existed everywhere except in real space, and that was populated with myths rather than citizens."

But recent events have shown that the real world does exist in Los Angeles — in the neighborhoods that many fear and few admit. The glitter of Tinseltown is now fading and the lush green lawns are threatened by a drought which has had a hold on the county for more than six years with no relief in sight. The "illusion was everything" and as the sprinklers dry up "everything will die," cutting off growth which is the life-line of the city.

Everything, it seems, "had been based on growth, and yet everything about growth now turned out to exacerbate a water short-

age." Construction has been severely affected as more and more restraints are put on the use of water. Jobs in this industry are being lost, adding to the complex social problems.

According to Rieff, there are two opposing "scenarios" of what the future may hold for Los Angeles. The optimistic view sees the city as a melting pot of the various immigrant cultures bubbling with new energy.

The not-so-optimistic view reflects the hostility and chaos recently seen on our television screens; presenting a desolate landscape of Ridley Scott's *Blade Runner* in which Los Angeles is populated entirely by Asians and Mexicans with unresolved cultural differences. "One did not have to endorse the *Blade Runner* scenario to recognize that groups whose ideas are... at variance tend to go for each other's throats when they come into conflict, as — assuming their children attended the same schools and they did not close themselves off from the rest of their fellow citizens — they inevitably would."

Los Angeles has a growing immigrant population of Arabs, Iranians, Indians, Pakistanis, Vietnamese, Japanese, Mexicans, to name a few of the new communities, that somehow do not blend together in the American melting pot.

Some compromises are being made on the culinary front, with exotic variations like *pita-fajita* — a dish made of Mexican *fajita* chicken or beef wrapped in a piece of Middle Eastern bread instead of a tortilla. Rieff believes the fusion was probably made by an Iranian immigrant catering for local Mexican workers.



National Guards had to retake the city from its rioting inhabitants

Pakistani shopkeepers in predominantly Spanish areas hire Hispanic helpers with whom they can hardly communicate — the outcome of the language barrier is a strange mixture of Spanish and English. None of these groups seem to be in a particular hurry to become "American," and it may take these mixed groups a lot more than *pita-fajita* and half-cooked dialects to find common ground.

Competition on the shrinking job market, a reluctance on the part of each of the groups to compromise and seek a common ground have led to intense jeal-

ousy and mutual suspicion. The author appreciates their enterprise, intelligence and hard work but remains pessimistic. He cannot see these divergent groups, with their differences entrenched in conflicting religious beliefs, social behavior and cultural background, uniting for a common purpose.

As things stand, segregation rules OK at a staggering level throughout Los Angeles. Not only is it possible to live in one part of town and have no contact at all with other neighborhoods but it's also possible for a community to shut itself off com-

pletely by blocking streets.

Most native Angelenos, it seems, prefer to take the optimistic view but mainly because, Rieff suspects, they want to keep up the Hollywood dream. They have their own ways of accepting the idea of the new immigrants in their midst — ways that often permit them to insist that nothing has changed.

The term "illegal aliens" has been dropped for "undocumented workers," making the arrival of the newspapers seem less threatening and thus not disturbing their fantasy. "Undocumented" after all implies, simply, that the newcomers' papers are not in order — something most Angelenos can identify with easily. For instance, who can say that an expired car registration or out of date insurance card changes your life or that of your community? The dream, and the dream makers, therefore, remain largely unruffled, intact and dreaming.

But as the drought lingers and the entering classes at UCLA continue to have more Asians than any other racial group, Rieff warns, Angelenos may soon be finding themselves "in a confrontation with their future from which all their dreaming, all their vaunted imaginative resourcefulness, might not excuse them." Will they finally be able to accept the face, and fate, of a new Los Angeles — not a melting pot but a *pita* bread with an ever increasing choice of toppings? Rieff, a New Yorker with firsthand experience of what melting pots are all about, concludes with what at first seems to be his message for Angelenos but in fact applies in a wider context to inhabitants of all megacities of the planet. "We must," he says, "love one another or die."

Academic File

LOS ANGELES: Capital Of The Third World. By David Rieff. Published by Jonathan Cape, London. 270pp. Hardback. £17.99. ISBN 0-224-03304-2

A lifetime effort dedicated to the cause

Encyclopedia of the Palestine Problem. By Issa Nakhleh. Intercontinental Books. 1991. 2 vols., 1131 pp., plus photographs and maps.

Reviewed by Donald Neff

AT LAST the aficionado's reference book on Palestine and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict exists. Issa Nakhleh's *Encyclopedia of the Palestine Problem* is not an encyclopedia in the usual sense of alphabetically arranged entries, but it is encyclopedic in its collection of extremely useful information on all aspects of the conflict. It is the kind of book that anyone truly interested in the small, day-by-day details that make up the enormity of the conflict could spend months and years pursuing with fascination and revelation. No library, private or public, worthy of the name can be without this immense cornucopia of research on everything from Arab land ownership to Zionist land confiscations.

Nakhleh has mined major archives such as the Public Records Office in London, the United Nations files, the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics, British Man-

date Government files and newspapers, books and other publications with meticulous care. The result is a series of lists, chronologies and reviews of such topics as the destruction of Palestinian villages, Jewish terrorism in the pre-state period and Israeli air attacks against Jordan and Lebanon among many other subjects. It is also filled with such nuggets as a list of Palestinian scholars of the Mandate period, as well as exhaustive citations of all the various international agreements, treaties and laws pertaining to the conflict.

Such a wealth of material raises an immediate and compelling question: How reliable is all this information? A close reading reveals the encyclopedia's thousand of entries to be faithful and accurate to their sources. And Nakhleh has chosen his sources well, with major emphasis on government reports and such scholarly publications as the *Middle East Journal* of Washington's venerable Middle East Institute. Readers can feel confident that his facts are correct; no mean accomplishment in books on the Middle East. I do not know of any other work so suffused with so many useful and meaningful — and carefully culled — facts.

Nakhleh's narrative is a different question. He was born into Mandate Palestine and was a law student in London before World War II, only to see his property — his Upper Baka home, his Jerusalem apartment, his Belsan plantation, even his law books — all lost in the Jewish aggression that established Israel in 1948 far beyond the borders the United Nations had recommended. He is an angry man, and his words do not hide his outrage.

"The Zionist and Israeli leaders have followed in the footsteps of the Nazis," Nakhleh writes. "Three thousand Zionist and Israeli political and military leaders participated as organizers, instigators and accomplices in the commission of crimes of terrorism, crimes against peace, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide against the Palestinians and peoples of Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Egypt." "Now," he adds, "the victims are called terrorists, murderers and criminals and the real terrorists and war criminals are being received as respectable representatives of a democratic society."

The encyclopedia exists on two levels: One is the many lists of facts. The other is the author's sustained harangue against Israel

and his determination to prove that Israel's Zionists are as guilty and deserving of war crimes trials as the Nazis. He suggests some American officials also should be hauled before an international tribunal which might not be a bad idea if it were not so unrealistic.

By assembling his exhaustive collection of facts committed by Israel over 40 years, Nakhleh goes far in proving his case. But many readers, no doubt, will be put off by some of his more inflammatory rhetoric when the facts themselves speak so eloquently. Moreover, the author has a tendency to be less meticulous with his facts and their interpretation in his narrative than he is in his lists and reviews of archival material.

This is more a question of style than of substance, and none of it should detract from the *Encyclopedia of the Palestine Problem*. It is a masterful work, a worthy product of a lifetime of effort dedicated to the Palestinian cause and arising from the plaint of refugees everywhere who have been denied their own homeland. ■

Donald Neff is the author of the *Warriors trilogy* on US-Middle East relations.

Le Jourdain

Section française du Star

Première médiatique

RFJ, la radio croissant-chaud

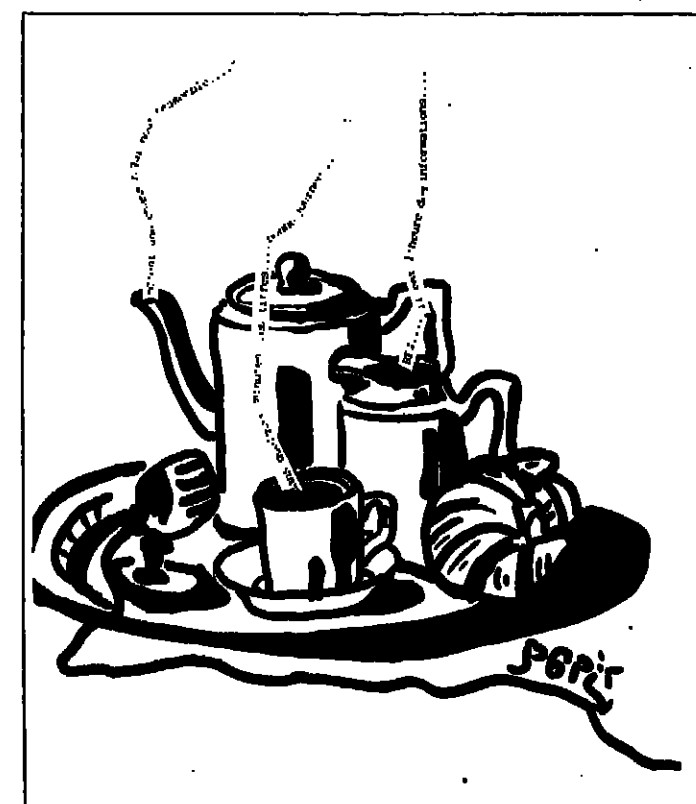
L'idée de créer une radio en français était dans l'air depuis plusieurs années. Elle sera très bientôt sur les ondes. Les premières émissions de la Radio Francophone de Jordanie sont prévues pour le début de l'été. De la musique, des informations... Avec en prime, un style café-croissant qui parfumerait le réveil des auditeurs francophones.

"IL EST huit heures sur RFJ, après notre bulletin d'informations, vous avez rendez-vous avec Charles Trenet, Jacques Brel et Vanessa Paradis..." Ces premiers mots vont bientôt, et tous les matins, accompagner le réveil de bon nombre de Jordanais. Le pari de la radio nationale: réaliser trois heures de musique, d'informations quotidiennes en français et en FM. L'équipe francophone de Radio Jordan se constitue peu à peu. Pour lancer ce projet, la grande maison recrutée dans un premier temps, des animateurs et des journalistes qui viennent de l'immeuble voisin: celui de la télévision. Les voix que vous entendrez vous seront familières, puisqu'elles rythment déjà les programmes en français de votre petit écran.

Réveils en douceur

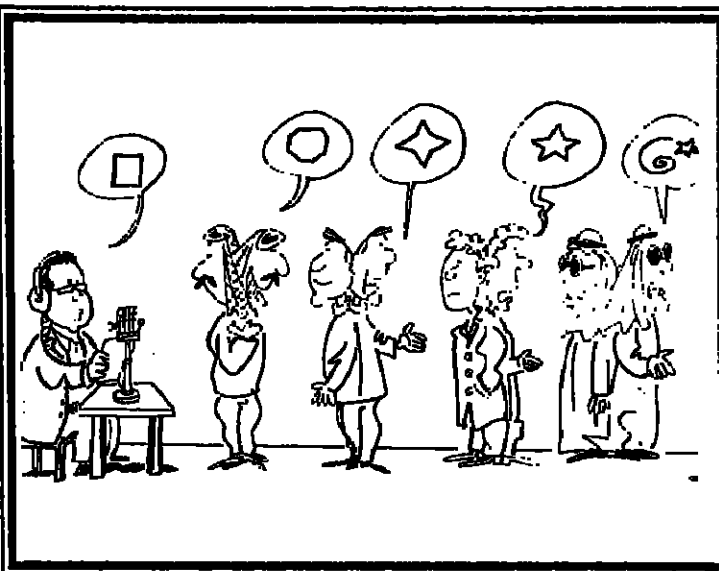
Au total, une équipe de six personnes se relaiera tout au long de la semaine, pour vous proposer des réveils en douceur. A sa tête, Philippe Paupert, expert-radio français, qui préfère "causer dans le poste" le matin. C'est pour lui le meilleur moment de la journée: "Nous souhaitons diffuser nos programmes pendant la trêve matinale, car notre sondage, effectué parmi les étudiants en français et les francophones de Jordanie et des Territoires Occupés, prouve que les gens écoutent la radio à ce moment là. De plus, une autre étude, réalisée par Radio Jordan confirme nos chiffres". Il ajoute: "La radio s'écoute surtout au petit déjeuner et en voiture sur la route du travail".

Avant de passer à l'antenne, futurs animateurs et journalistes vont réaliser un stage de formation. "Même si l'on parle un



français parfait, il faut apprendre celui de la radio, celui qu'on utilise derrière un micro" explique l'expert français. Lors de cette session de formation chacun trouvera sa spécialité. Des qualifications indispensables. Car ces quelques heures de radio quotidiennes nécessiteront beaucoup de travail.

Chacun sa fonction: présenter les journaux, collecter de la musique en français, enregistrer et faire le montage des programmes de Radio France Internationale (RFI), captée en permanence sur le satellite. Ou encore élaborer des plans en vue de créer une production locale. "Notre but est de diffuser le plus rapidement possible un programme en français 100% jordanien. Après une période de rodage, nous utiliserons de moins en moins d'enregistrements venant de RFI ou d'autres radios francophones (belge, par exemple). Notre objectif est de produire en Jordanie des émissions culturelles, sociales ou économiques sur la Jordanie". La toute nouvelle équipe française de Radio Jordan débordait de bonnes idées. "Mais il faudra d'abord nous laisser le temps de nous installer à l'antenne" affirme Philippe Pau-



Trois questions à...

Dr Touqan: la paix avant tout

Le délégué, Secrétaire Général du plan, dévoile la position jordanienne face aux multilatérales

Le Jourdain: Quelle est la tactique jordanienne pour les négociations multilatérales?

Safwan Touqan: La position de la Jordanie est très claire: il est indispensable de faire le lien entre négociations multilatérales et bilatérales. En clair, sans l'application de la résolution 242, il n'y aura jamais de paix. Il n'y aura pas de développement non plus. Il faut au préalable obtenir la sécurité régionale avant de réussir la coopération économique. Par la suite, nous pourrions entrer dans les détails, et aborder des sujets cruciaux comme celui de l'eau ou celui de l'environnement. Cela s'appelle la méthode intégrale. Elle consiste à traiter, dans le même temps tous les sujets importants.



L.J: Les co-parrains sont-ils sur la même longueur d'onde?

Safwan Touqan: Les Etats-Unis et la Russie ont bien précisé lors de la Conférence de Moscou en janvier dernier, que la "coopération régionale peut aider la paix". De notre côté, nous disons que la paix est la première démarche avant d'établir une véritable coopération régionale. De plus, avant même d'employer ce terme, il faudra réduire les écarts entre les différents pays de la région. Il y a beaucoup de différences entre ces derniers, et ce à cause des différents niveaux d'aide accordés par les Etats-Unis. Cette discussion s'applique particulièrement à Israël qui reçoit des aides substantielles.

L.J: Quel doit être selon vous, la question la plus importante, lors des multilatérales?

Safwan Touqan: Le sujet le plus important est celui des évolutions démographiques qui ont affecté la Jordanie à cause des vagues d'immigrations successives en 1948, 1967 et 1990. Celles-ci ont provoqué un déséquilibre, une pression sur les ressources naturelles: l'eau, l'agriculture... Elles affectent l'environnement. Par ailleurs, il faudra aussi aborder les questions des droits de l'homme pour les réfugiés et rapatriés. Sans oublier celles qui concernent l'armement et la sécurité régionale. Mais j'insiste, toutes ces questions ne trouveront pas de solution sans l'établissement d'une paix durable. ■

Propos recueillis par Frida Mdanat

A VOIR...

CINEMA - Cycle Richard Bohringer. Tour à tour écrivain, poète, musicien, chanteur, Richard Bohringer s'est imposé depuis quelques années comme l'un des plus grands acteurs populaires français.

LE GRAND CHEMIN (1987), de Jean-Loup Hubert, avec Anémone, samedi 16 mai au CCF. Ce film retrace l'histoire d'un jeune garçon de neuf ans, en vacances en Bretagne et qui en profite pour découvrir le monde des adultes.

EXPOSITION - Les œuvres de Rida Hus Hus, peintre syrien jusqu'au 23 mai au CCF.



Rapport économique de la CESAO

La région vient de rater la décennie

Tayseer Abdel Jaber a présenté lundi le rapport 1991 de la Commission régionale des Nations Unies. Bilan: baisse de la production, hausse du chômage et de l'inflation... La guerre du Golfe a laissé les 13 pays de la CESAO dans une situation critique



Tayseer Abdel Jaber et son accessoir Nejlil Friji

"PLUS QUE toute autre Région du monde, la nôtre a raté la dernière décennie de développement économique", a déclaré lundi, Tayseer Abdel Jaber, Secrétaire général de la Commission Economique et Sociale pour l'Asie Occidentale (CESAO). Le numéro un de la cinquième institution régionale des Nations Unies, qui présentait son rapport économique pour 1991, a ajouté: "La crise et la guerre du golfe nous ont rappelé à quel point le progrès et le développement de la région sont dépendants de la stabilité politique". Constat de départ: ces récents événements, et leurs retombées, ont porté un sévère coup aux économies des pays de l'Asie Occidentale. Leur produit intérieur brut, qui avait enregistré une baisse de 3,8% en 1990, a été sévèrement touché en 1991: il chute de 4,9% sur cette seule année. Pour les six pays du Conseil de Coopération du Golfe, ce chiffre est également à la baisse, mais dans de moindres proportions: moins 0,6% en 1991. Si l'on ne tient pas compte du Koweït, le produit intérieur brut de ces pays, qui reflète essentiellement la bonne santé de l'économie saoudienne, est largement à la hausse, avec plus de 5%.

Vagues de rapatriés

Pour les autres pays de la région, l'Egypte, l'Irak, la Jordanie,

le Liban et la Syrie, le PIB total accuse un recul beaucoup plus net: moins 13% en 1990 et moins 12,4% en 1991. Selon Tayseer Abdel Jaber, "cette contraction peut être attribuée au sévère déclin des exportations irakiennes et à l'interruption des flux économiques et commerciaux avec les pays du CCG". Par ailleurs, le PIB du Yémen, pays le moins développé de la région, a décliné de 3% en 1990 et de 4,8% en 1991.

Autre conséquence de la crise et de la guerre du Golfe, période qui a durement affecté les économies régionales: l'arrivée massive et soudaine de deux millions de rapatriés. Les deux pays les plus touchés par ces vagues sont le Yémen (732.000) et la Jordanie (300.000). Ces rapatriés ont contribué à une hausse spectaculaire des populations des pays d'accueil: 7% pour le Yémen et 10% pour la Jordanie. La pression s'est accentuée sur les services de santé, les systèmes d'éducation, les transports... Une spectaculaire hausse de la demande qui s'est traduite sur les marchés par une inflation galopante, notamment sur celui du logement. Un fléau qui a bien sûr touché la Jordanie.

D'autres pays comme l'Irak ont connu d'impressionnantes hausses de prix, et dans le même temps un effondrement de leurs monnaies. En 1991, le taux d'inflation au Liban atteignait

50%. Il dépassait les 20% en Egypte et dans la République du Yémen. Les pays du Golfe ont de leur côté bien vécu cette période de pression inflationniste. "Cette réaction est due à des marchés de biens et de services subventionnés par les Etats et à des politiques monétaires sévères", affirme Tayseer Abdel Jaber.

Hausse du chômage

L'arrivée massive de rapatriés du Golfe dans certains pays a également exacerbé les problèmes du marché du travail. Les taux de chômage ont atteint des seuils critiques. La Jordanie, le Liban et la République du Yémen comptent actuellement 30% de demandeurs d'emploi. Ce phénomène a, selon la CESAO, des conséquences néfastes sur les sociétés concernées: augmentation des taux de criminalité et de la consommation de drogues.

Par ailleurs, les services de la Commission régionale de l'ONU ont comptabilisé le montant total de la dette extérieure des 13 pays de la région: elle s'élève à 153 milliards de dollars pour l'année 1990. Ce qui représente 9% de la dette totale de toutes les nations développées pour cette même année. Pour nombre de pays, comme l'Egypte, l'Irak, la Jorda-

nie, la Syrie et le Yémen, la situation est sérieuse. Dans ces cas là, le service de la dette freine le développement économique.

Autre problème rencontré par la région de la CESAO: celui du pétrole. Les revenus du pétrole pour 1991 ont été estimés à 75,6 milliards de dollars, contre 83,7 milliards en 1990. En 1991, les prix ont baissé sensiblement. La courbe des revenus des pays exportateurs de pétrole, à l'exception de l'Arabie Saoudite et de la Syrie, s'est infléchie. La CESAO en tire des enseignements: le pétrole, seule véritable source de revenus des pays de la région implique une dépendance vis-à-vis du monde extérieur. La solution: diversifier. Mais ce n'est pas tout: la Commission régionale des Nations Unies insiste également sur la coopération régionale. Dans son rapport, Tayseer Abdel Jaber évoque la création de la Communauté européenne: "Souvenons nous que la plus grosse entité économique en passe d'émerger, est construite par des Etats-membres qui se sont battus entre eux lors de la guerre la plus destructrice il y a 50 ans". Et de conclure: "C'est l'intérêt de chacun d'adopter cet esprit régional. Sinon, nous allons rater une nouvelle décennie".

Francis Mazoyer

L'EDITO

Reconstruire

La Commission Economique et Sociale des Nations Unies pour l'Asie Occidentale, l'ESCWA, a présenté lundi un bilan inquiétant de la Crise du Golfe. Plus besoin de s'arrêter sur les détails. Quasiment aucun secteur n'a été épargné par la calamité qui s'est abattue sur la région, mis à part peut-être les réserves pétrolières.

Lors de sa conférence de presse, le chef de la Commission des Nations Unies chargée de la promotion de la coopération régionale et des conditions sociales a lancé deux appels. Le premier sous forme de mise en garde non seulement aux 13 Etats-membres, mais aussi sur la gravité de la situation dans la région du Moyen-Orient et du Golfe arabe. Une région frappée par la crise la plus aiguë.

Le second message pluri-réaliste, rappelle qu'une solution des conflits et des différends politiques qui ne tiendrait pas compte des souffrances et des frustrations subies par la plus grande majorité des populations de la région, n'en serait pas une.

Tous les efforts devraient être employés en vue de raviver les activités économiques, d'explorer les mécanismes de coopération.

L'ESCWA offre à travers ses programmes économiques et sociaux, en plus de la stratégie de développement des Nations Unies, un cadre propice qu'il faut améliorer. Avec la contribution d'autres partenaires solides tels que la Communauté Economique Européenne et les autres puissances financières et industrielles, une sorte de plan Marshall, axé sur la promotion de projets de développements régionaux et d'intégrations peut constituer une ébauche de solution.

Le déchirement dans les rangs arabes ne doit pas pousser au désespoir. La coopération économique régionale devrait être le point de départ vers un nouveau partenariat basé sur l'interdépendance et l'intérêt commun. Sans oublier la dimension humaine du développement: démocratie, droits de l'homme et émancipation de la femme. Ainsi les pays jadis en état de guerre s'engageront sur la voie sûre du regroupement et de la solidarité en vue de créer un ensemble réaliste loin des schémas d'utopies et chimériques qui n'ont fait qu'éparpiller les efforts des peuples et gaspiller leurs ressources. L'exemple des Etats européens qui se sont entretenus lors de deux guerres mondiales mais qui ont fini par s'unir pour bâtir un nouveau géant économique et politique devrait rappeler aux pays arabes qu'il ne faut pas désespérer... mais reconstruire.

Choc

Le Clézio et le bédouin de Pétra

L'auteur du "Procès Verbal" et de "Désert", mythe de la littérature française va raconter l'histoire d'une rencontre. D'une coïncidence entre deux rêves, qui a pour décor la cité Nabatéenne. Le résultat dans quelques semaines dans le livre "Les nouvelles de Pétra", impulsé par le Service culturel français et le ministère du Tourisme

UNE RENCONTRE magique vient de se produire à Pétra. Deux rêves viennent de s'entrechoquer: celui d'un des écrivains français les plus célèbres, Jean-Marie Gustave Le Clézio et celui d'un simple bédouin.

Le premier est devenu réalité, la semaine dernière, à l'occasion d'un voyage organisé par le Service culturel de l'ambassade de France et le ministère du Tourisme jordanien. Car le mythe de la littérature française doit écrire un texte pour le projet commun de ces deux institutions: "Les nouvelles de Pétra". Un recueil de nouvelles qui rassemblera pas moins de 12 auteurs, arabes ou français.

Les premiers contacts entre Jean-Marie Le Clézio et des paysages irradés, taillés à même la roche par une civilisation nabatéenne méconnue ont tenu leurs promesses: "C'était une expérience extraordinaire, une émotion de voir les monuments, de pouvoir parler avec les gens à Pétra".

Privilegé

La visite a duré quatre jours. Le troisième, juste avant de partir, Jean-Marie Gustave Le Clézio a eu le privilège d'être reçu par Abdallah Nweijeh, ou Abou Talal, un illustre inconnu, qui se noie parfaitement dans le paysage jordanien. Blanc, mince, long "jelabieh" qui rivalise en-

tre le gris et le bleu, keffieh traditionnel rouge et blanc, il représente l'idéal romanesque du bédouin. Jusque là rien de vraiment d'original.

Tout bascule. Le bédouin décide d'inviter dans sa maison, celui qu'il ne connaît pas. Soudain le décor se produit entre deux hommes. Le Bédouin se raconte, se livre et avoue même son rêve. Un jour, alors que le Clézio n'avait pas encore écrit son premier roman,

le "Procès Verbal" (1963), qui a reçu le prix Renaudot, le bédouin rencontre une archéologue suisse, qui va occuper une grande place dans sa vie. Une fois parité, elle continuera à lui envoyer des lettres. Le bédouin n'est pas "mytho". Il ouvre ses vieilles malles pleines de souvenirs. Elles sont remplies de missives datées de Suisse. Il ouvre également un grand sac en plastique qui contient un tee-shirt trop grand pour lui. Un autre en-



Jean-Marie Gustave Le Clézio

voit de la vieille archéologue. Depuis, le Bédouin se sent seul, il lui prend des envies de grand large, d'Europe. Il veut absolument aller en Suisse.

Jean-Marie Gustave Le Clézio n'a pas encore commencé d'écrire. Il ne connaît pas encore les détails de sa contribution: "Je ne suis pas encore sûr, mais en revanche je peux vous révéler l'idée principale". Ah oui? "Il s'agit d'un échange entre l'occident et Pétra". D'une ren-

contre entre deux rêves, dont l'un devient réalité et l'autre pas. "C'est mieux comme ça" confie l'auteur. Mais comme dans la plupart des œuvres de Le Clézio, les personnages, un jeune suisse et un jeune bédouin, devraient ici aussi se contenter des seconds rôles. Et la toile de fond de venir sur le devant de la scène.

On s'attend à ce que Le Clézio nous fasse découvrir ses phantasmes autour de Pétra. A ce qu'il se passionne pour les Nabatéens,

comme il l'a déjà fait pour des civilisations perdues, notamment en Amérique centrale. Les Nabatéens? "Ils sont une civilisation essentielle qui ont donné l'impulsion de notre monde, ils ont réussi dans la rencontre des cultures orientales et romaines". Le Clézio s'enthousiasme: "Leurs temples, leurs monuments révèlent une très forte expression de la pensée".

Dans son dernier ouvrage, "Etoile Errante", le Clézio nous fait découvrir un personnage du Wadi Mujib. Un lieu mythique pour l'écrivain français: "Je suis aussi venu pour découvrir cette extraordinaire vallée, c'est immense, extraordinaire, cela donne l'impression de retrouver le contact avec les temps bibliques".

Le Clézio s'est également rendu à Beldha, place moins connue du touriste moyen, pourtant toute proche de Pétra. Des paysages à la mesure de l'auteur qui devraient figurer en bonne place dans la nouvelle à venir. A cinquante deux ans, Jean-Marie Le Clézio, auteur d'une trentaine de romans, tous édités par Gallimard, la plus grande maison française, jouit d'une célébrité hors du commun. Celle-ci devrait servir à promouvoir la fabuleuse cité encore méconnue sur la carte touristique mondiale. FM

Expérience sur le corail d'Aqaba

Le bocal a déjà parlé

La cloche de verre installée par des chercheurs français sur le récif corallien a tenu ses promesses. Les résultats obtenus sont satisfaisants même si les vagues ont brisé la structure.

CHEZ LES scientifiques, la façon d'obtenir un résultat compte souvent autant que le résultat en lui-même. Et comme la "machine à résultats" du professeur Jean Jaubert de l'université de Nice Sophia Antipolis fonctionne, celui-ci affiche un visage radieux. Sa cloche en verre destinée à mesurer les échanges gazeux eau/air induits par le corail est un outil précieux.

Pour la première fois, des scientifiques ont pu observer in situ la consommation de gaz carbonique du corail grâce à des capteurs installés dans la cloche à six mètres de profondeur. On connaît les résultats définitifs dans quelques mois, lorsque les chercheurs auront dépouillé les milliers de données enregistrées par l'ordinateur. Mais déjà l'équipe du professeur Jaubert a fait des découvertes.

Toutes les mesures effectuées jusqu'alors sur la consommation de gaz carbonique par les coraux sont sujettes à discussion, car effectuées de façon ponctuelle. Les océanologues français basés à la Station marine d'Aqaba ont constaté que la présence de gaz carbonique dans l'eau autour du corail varie selon des paramètres jusqu'alors jamais pris en compte.

En surveillant le corail en permanence, les océanologues enregistrent en quelques heures des variations supérieures à celles observées ponctuellement: tous

les deux mois. Autre trouvaille des scientifiques français: l'impact du vent. Il brasse la couche d'eau de surface, en modifie la température et favorise les échanges gazeux.

Autre intérêt de cette expérience: connaître les limites du système "cloche". La pression de la faible houle d'Aqaba a fait exploser une paroi de verre et impossible de travailler près de la surface à cause des vagues. L'équipe du professeur Jaubert songe donc à bâtir une structure de même taille, plus souple pour épouser la forme des vagues. Autre enseignement de cette semaine: le récif corallien est une entité écologique qui inclut des poissons, des algues, du sable... Il faudra en tenir compte la prochaine fois.

Les scientifiques de l'université de Nice Sophia Antipolis prévoient de revenir en novembre à Aqaba pour une période d'un mois et demi d'expérience. L'idéal serait de surveiller une période de corail pendant un mois chaque saison



L'installation de capteurs des scientifiques français. Photo: E. Jallivet

en ajoutant de nouveaux capteurs pour étudier les variations de lumière, les taux de nitrates, de phosphates ou de sédiments. Le professeur Jaubert, spécialiste mondial des aquariums "autonomes" (un aquarium à vécu 14 ans dans son bureau sans changer l'eau ni les poissons ou la flore qu'il contenait), rêve déjà de créer des aquariums complètement fermés: où il pourrait modéliser les échanges gazeux entre le corail, l'eau et l'atmosphère.

Ce professeur Nimbus des coraux songe déjà à provoquer de fausses pollutions dans ses futurs aquariums... De fausses pollutions pour savoir si le corail sera un jour capable de résorber les vagues pollutions. Il y a plus que du Mister Hyde chez ce Docteur Corail. P.P.

PARLEZ FRANCAIS

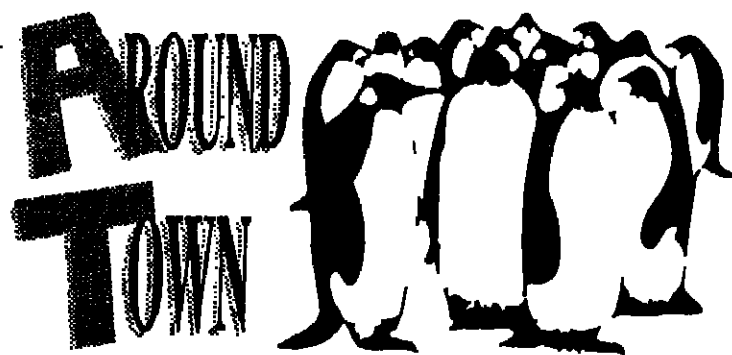
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at the computer show

Amman/Mariott Hotel
Thursday May 14 - Friday May 15, 1992 10am - 9pm
Saturday May 16, 1992 10am - 5pm

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Congratulations!
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Her Majesty Queen Noor attended the annual celebration to honor students who participated in the charitable fund program, organized by the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS).
The celebration, held at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC), included speeches by the Director of GUVS Dr Abdullah Al Khattab, the Director of Student Affairs at the Ministry of Education Mr Hassan Al-uddin, and Ms Ghada Amin Qarreen on behalf of the students.

At the end of the ceremony Queen Noor distributed certificates of appreciation to the students and headmistresses of the participating schools.

On Friday Dr Mohammad Nael Obeldat won the elections for the post of president of the Jordan Dentist Association (JDA) by gaining 242 out of 473 votes. It was a cut-throat competition between Obeldat and his opponent Dr Sayed Abu Maizer, who received 231 votes.

Dr Obeldat has led a distinguished union life since 1980. He was a board member between '80 and '82, a vice chairman from '82-'84, chairman of the JDA union committee in '80, '84, '88 and '90, and president of the cultural committee and a JDA representative.

A team from the British Embassy in Amman, led by the ambassador Mr Patrick Eyers participated in the MAP-sponsored walk last Friday. This comes as part of the on-going contribution which Britain has made over the years in support of MAP's efforts in raising funds for their various projects.

In addition, the British government donated JD 3,000 for the health center established by MAP in the Hittin refugee camp. The donation is towards the cost of laboratory equipment used by the center, which provides health services for the refugee population there.

An opening ceremony was held on May 11, 1992 to inaugurate the Safana Bent Hatim El-Tal Compulsory Girls School, in North Hashimi. This school will accommodate approximately 1200 students in grades five through nine, and was built by the Ministry of Education under the Schools Construction III, a project supported by the US Agency for International Development (USAID). This inauguration marks the completion of the project, wherein 48 schools were constructed, furnished, equipped and are presently in operation.

The Ministry of Education received a \$30 million grant from USAID to help in financing the Schools Construction III project, and the Ministry contributed an additional estimated \$11 million. The 48 schools for girls and boys in compulsory level education are located throughout Jordan, and will provide approximately 1,400 classrooms, plus associated



An exhibition of basic architectural designs entitled "Architects of Tomorrow" was held at the Jordan University of Science and Technology's department of architecture on Tuesday 28 April.

Dr Khader Horani, Dr Faisal Aljani, Dr Abdul Saheb Azawi and Dr Yaser Arrajal attended the exhibition as critics. They expressed their satisfaction with the quality, imagination and effort of works.

44 freshmen participated in the exhibition, but only a few were distinguished as being "creative", including: Samer Kan'an, Wael Noori, Jawad Suleiman, Ibrahim Odeh and Shaten Abu Safiah.

Under the patronage of their Royal Highnesses, Prince Faisal bin Hussein and Princess Alia Al Faisal, the University of Jordan presents the esteemed Jordanian pianist Rula Cameran Nabeel in concert on Thursday, 21 May, at 8 pm in the Al Hassan bin Talal auditorium. Tickets are available at Safeway International, Pizza Hut in Moccia street and the Ishtikh libraries in Shmeisani and Swefieh for JDS. All proceeds will go to the Students Aid Fund.

libraries, laboratories, meeting halls, administrative rooms, furniture and equipment.

The opening ceremony was attended by Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Education Mr Theougan Hineawi, the Ambassador of the United States to Jordan Mr Roger Harrison, the Director of USAID Mr William Oliver and Senior Ministry and USAID officials.

The strains of the Ode to Joy were missing, but everything, and everyone else was in place for the European Community Delegation in Amman's celebration of Europe Day on 9 May, at BC Ambassador Christian Falkowski and his wife Renata entertained over 300 guests from Amman's diplomatic, business and cultural circles. They included Mr Nabli Sawalha, Father Musa Adelm of Caritas, businessman Kamel Kawa, British Institute of Archaeology Director William Lancaster and his wife Fidelity, and Development and Employment Fund Director Abdullah Abu Ayyash.

Roy Law of Housing Technical Services and his wife Valerie and Mike and Val Bell of the British Embassy, having sorted out who was called what, were enjoying the fresh spring air and the Falkowski's lawn. These



rial personality Mr Nabli Sawalha was in the thick of things, while his wife Jackie took the charge to catch up with old friends from the delegation. And Central Bank Deputy Governor Michael Marito and his wife Lucy just could not tear themselves away.

Ad-Dustour newspaper has organized an Arab basketball championship, the first of its kind in Jordan's history. The championship, which opened on Sunday at the Sports Palace, celebrates the newspaper's 25th anniversary. Teams from Iraq, Lebanon, Sudan and Jordan are participating. Matches will continue until Monday.

The Plaza Hotel has opened its summer swimming pool, fully equipped with all that is necessary for the clients to relax and enjoy the beautiful summer climate.

The management has the pleasure of announcing that it will provide the utmost services all day long to sports lovers, who can also enjoy a buffet lunch at the coffee shop. Refreshing drinks will also be available throughout the day.

RAMADAN QUIZ WINNERS

The Star is pleased to announce the names of its Ramadan General Knowledge Quiz, sponsored by Parker Pens.
First prize: Silver-plated pen/ball-pen set from Parker:- Mahmoud Ibrahim Khader, an employee of the Ministry of Education.
Second prize: Silver plated ball-pen from Parker:- Samir Akkawi of Akkawi Auto Parts Corporation.
And four runner-up prizes of a Parker "Vector" roller-ball-pen set will be going out to:

- (1) Samer M. Kana'n of Jordan University/ Department of Science and Technology.
- (2) Dr A. Grossman of the German Embassy.
- (3) Ahmed Suleiman Ahmed Salem of Al-Hajja Ibn Yousef School.
- (4) M. Mulhofer.

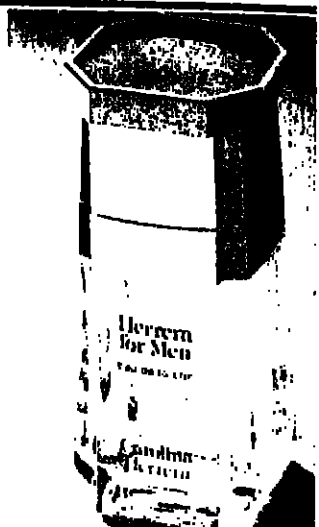
All prize-winners should contact the University Bookshop, Jebel Al-Weibdeh. Tel: 636339. Mabruk!!!

Carolina Herrera, the fashion designer who recently launched her signature perfume for ladies, has now expanded her field by launching her new line Carolina Herrera for men.

Ms Herrera who has been described as being "synonymous with elegance and design" has spent 3 years of research to compose her fragrant mix of aromatic top notes, light floral center and lingering woody dry down resulting in a fragrance that has "European subtlety and American strength."

Carolina Herrera in conjunction with Abu Shakra Trading Agency held its press conference on 11th of May at the Amman Marriott Hotel. The presentation was delivered by Janien Eccles and Marie-Helene Pradier from Carolina Herrera and Raed Abu Shakra from Abu Shakra Trading Agency.

Carolina Herrera for men is now available in 50 ml spray bottles and 100 ml bottles in all Abu Shakra gift shops and other prestigious stores.



Agenda

Films

At the American Cultural Center, the film "True Grit" will be shown tonight at 7 pm. John Wayne gives a rousing, Academy Award-winning performance as Marshal Rooster Cogburn, an old law hand hired to seek the killer of a young girl's father. The film will be shown again next Sunday and Thursday.

At the Spanish Cultural Center, the film "Tiempo de Soledad" will be shown today at 4:30 pm.

At the French Cultural Center, the film "Le Grand Chemin" will be shown on Saturday 16 May at 8 pm. The film is about a little boy of nine years, who, while on holiday in Brittany, discovers the world of adults.

At the Royal Cultural Centre, the French film "Le Petit Criminel" will be shown on Friday 22 May at 8 pm. The film is about a police officer who is taken hostage and tries to reform his teenage kidnapper.

Exhibitions

At Alia Art Gallery, Director of UNRWA Affairs Mr Dennis will open this evening the paintings exhibition artist Mohamed Abu Zreik. The exhibition, to be opened at 6 pm, will run

until 21 May.

At the Spanish Cultural Center, the paintings exhibition of artist Ali Al Mandalawi entitled "A Feather from the Wings of a Cloud," opened Monday 4 May, will run until 16 May.

At the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, the Malaysian art exhibition entitled "Risalah Dari Malaysia," which was opened on 7 May, will run until 7 June.

Symposia

At the Farah Center for Rehabilitation/Al Hussein Medical City, there will be a symposium on the donation of corneas and their legal, religious and medical dimensions. The symposium is organized by the Friends Society of the Jordan Eye Bank and Prevention of Blindness, and will be held on Thursday 21 May at 9 am.

Field trips

Friends of Archaeology (FOA) will conduct a field trip tomorrow 15 May to Mekawer and Um er-Rasas. Mekawer is located 49 kilometers to the south-west of Amman, while Um er-Rasas lies to the south of Amman. Departure will be from the Amra Hotel parking lot at 9 am. In private cars.

The Star
Tel. 648-298

George Hamilton: Hollywood with the human touch

By Frida Mdanat
Special to The Star

ON MEETING with actor George Hamilton in the Hotel InterContinental on the eve of his leaving Jordan, I presumed our conversation would center around his Hollywood glamor, his fan club or his heartbreaking "Don Juan" image.

But when he dashed into the room — tall, erect and sun-tanned, and still looking stunning at 52, this middle-aged movie star took his seat and started talking fervently about "humanity" and his charity mission here in Jordan.

Hamilton is here together with three members of Operation Cali-

fornia, a private group based in the United States, who are in Jordan to donate computers to a children's school.

Distinguished by the mole on his cheek, this American movie star has, at mid-age, found a new purpose to his life and fame — to be a delegate of humanity. He joined Operation California last year, and has committed himself to helping the children of the world in whichever way possible.

The operation, which has been active since after the Vietnam War, has donated food and relief aid to children in war-stricken countries across the globe. During the events of the Gulf crisis in 1990, the group had a significant presence at Ruweisah, Jordan, where they managed to charter 65 thousand boxes of children's food. Working in close collaboration with Save the Children, Operation California provided medical equipment and other forms of sustenance to thousands of repatriates.

Accredited by the organization as the "Ambassador of Charity", Hamilton said that his experience with the group has taught him a great deal about humanity. "Less politics, more humanity, and less reasons for people to die is what we need," he affirmed.

After 35 years in the film business, during which time he starred in 56 films and produced three, Hamilton now claims to be interested in "life" and basic humanity. As a film producer, he

hopes to be able to make a film that will be purely about such topics.

Hamilton is consciously attempting to change the general perception of celebrities in the film business by advocating humanitarian concerns and promoting charity. With regards to his glamorous Hollywood career, he said: "I thought acting was an insecure business, and I tried to talk my 17 year-old son out of it, but before I could finish my sentence he was auditioning for a role in a film." His son has now won the leading role in a movie and is shooting some of the scenes in Zimbabwe.

As a first-time visitor to Jordan, Hamilton has an "average" knowledge of the country, which he has gained through the American media. "However," he said, "to read about the country is one thing, and to actually see it is very different."

During his one week in Jordan he has seen a culture with so much richness, and a country with very many forms of knowledge. "Some of them," he said, "have not yet started to be used by us in the States. We have come to Jordan to donate charity, and we have learnt from this country how to give charity."

Having donated their computers to the Jubilee School, the four delegates of Operation California were introduced to some of the projects run by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation. "We have seen the simplicity of the operations, and the advanced stage of putting theories into effective action. This is an experience that can be passed on to others," he said.

"The Arab world," Hamilton contended, "is lumped into one cluster, with a lot of stereotyping." He feels strongly that a lot needs to be explained and changed in this regard. "One area that could be rendered useful is the movies," he said, vowing to dedicate a future production to changing the stereotyped images of the area, namely Jordan, in the eyes of the west. ■



Movie star Hamilton

Pakistani fashions fuse east with west

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to The Star

THE PAKISTANI Women's Association (PWA) in Amman organized a fashion show, bazaar and tea party at the Amman Marriott Hotel this Tuesday. They invited Pakistani fashion designer Rizwan Beyg and silver jewelry designer Amnah Jabiri to display their work to the Jordanian public.

50 pieces were modeled, with styles ranging from cotton casual to formal wear. Beyg, originally an interior designer, made use of velvets, silks and lace in his collection. Although these are not typical Pakistani fabrics and are more commonly associated with the west, he effectively attempted to fuse the east with the west.

Heavily embroidered jackets reflected the Pakistani heritage, incorporating Moghul painting designs. However the traditional shalwar kameez (long blouse and baggy trousers) had been modernized. Blouses were covered with boleros and trouser hems were covered with lace or embroidery. Shoulder pads were nowhere to be found, as the designer prefers not to use them, but the traditional "dupatta" (long scarf) was still evident, although hung in different ways.

As to the reasons why he decided to play around with the traditional fabrics and cuts, he said, "I felt that Pakistani women had come to a stand-still, and so I am trying to change the way that they dress."

All of the clothes were complemented by accessories from Amnah's silver and gold collection. She chose geometric shaped jewelry where the kameez was heavily worked, and when the embroidery was simpler, with concentration on the arms and legs, she decorated it with large and heavy jewelry.

Born to a goldsmith, with a degree in sculpture from the United States, Amnah chose silver as her "fun" medium. "I worked with gold under my father's guidance," she said, "but I gradually broke away from the family tradition and started a silver line."



She started reconstructing old pieces of jewelry and then found that silver was the metal for the younger generation in Pakistan. So far, this is her third show with Beyg, and the 60 pieces shown in Amman were specifically made for his collection, and ranged from delicate to large and heavy earrings. She explained that when designing for a fashion show, the size of the earrings is made larger, she explains, "in a show, earrings have to be large enough to be seen on stage. My line is actually different to what has been modelled here."

For both Beyg and Jabiri, their work is based on the respect for culture. Beyg describes it as a cyclic pattern whereby old motifs are translated in a personal manner. Thus, the old becomes the modern and the modern the old. This was seen in a white and gold piece; the basic cut was in the Pakistani style of the flowing kameez and baggy shalwar underneath. However, the air of sensuality accompanying the garments was definitely untraditional. Sheer, old embroidered sleeves and dainty embroidered white leg hems swayed with every movement. One could almost categorize these garments of sensuality, from the innocence of white to the daring of red and

black lace. Dangling earrings, intricately made to match the stylish jackets, added an exotic air to the whole of the outfit. A definite eye-catcher was the stark black suit dotted with silver and finished off with a mirrored bolero, a piece that would make quite a few heads turn, with its mirrors reflecting light into multicolored prisms.

The music accompanying the show was commendable. Mustafah Tappu, photographer, choreographer and coordinator (the list is endless), wittily controlled the mood of the show with his choice of music. Pakistan was symbolized not only through traditional designs, but also through the music. The shift from the traditional into the new age was accomplished through the music of the Gypsy Kings — very unconventional, yet effective.

Compliments must also be paid to the make-up and hair artist, Nabila Maksud, who quickly transformed the models from one age to another and from one style to another with her 1960s hair-styles and heavily made up eyes. Maksud has worked for the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and the international hairdressing Vidal Sassoon.

The bazaar that followed the show sold traditional Pakistani items such as cloth, boxes and silver ware, and the public was also offered a typical Pakistani tea around the hotel's pool. Those who were not able to attend definitely missed an interesting show. Revenues will go in aid of the Young Women's Muslim Association (YWMA) for special education purposes. ■

A Tribute to Dr Kenneth W. Russell

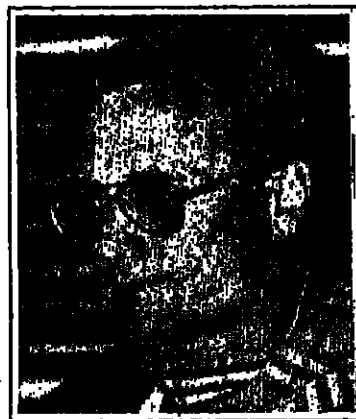
Dr Kenneth W. Russell died unexpectedly on May 10, 1992 after a short illness. His tragic death at the age of 42, in the prime of his scholarly career, leaves his friends and colleagues with a deep sense of loss.

Ken was born in Lakeport, California, in 1950. He received his Ph.D. in 1986 in Anthropology from the University of Utah and taught courses in anthropology both there and at Weber State University in Utah. He also was involved with cultural resource management in the Southwest of the United States for many years. Beginning in 1990, Ken worked as a cultural resources management archaeologist for the Amman Temple of Hercules Restoration project and the Aqaba (Islamic Ayla) project. Ken was especially skilled as an anthropologist, and he made contributions to archaeological and ethnoarchaeological theory.

But Ken's first love in Jordan was the history and archaeology of Petra. In the mid-1970s he received his early training in archaeological excavation in Petra. In recent years Ken studied the ethnoarchaeology of the *Bladul* bedouins, Petra's modern-day inhabitants. Ken leaves unfinished several manuscripts about his archaeological and ethnoarchaeological work at Petra, which his colleagues will bring to completion. At the time of his death Ken was about to begin directing a major excavation of a Byzantine church in Petra.

His friends and colleagues at the American Centre of Oriental Research (ACOR) in Amman remember Ken best for the energy and enthusiasm that showed in his work and personal relationships. Ken was a brilliant and animated lecturer. He was seldom alone in his study carrel in the ACOR library; all who spoke with him, beginning students and established scholars alike, were sure to benefit from his freely given help and advice.

His friends will always remember the best of Ken's character; his slightly crooked grin, his wit, and his colorful expressions. But most importantly, he will be remembered for his irrepressible positive attitude towards life that immensely enriched those who had the good fortune to know him.



The Star's TV GUIDE

Programs on
Jordan
Television
from
16 - 22
May

ENGLISH PROGRAM

SATURDAY

8:30 — Super Bloopers.
9:00 — Encounter. Tonight's guest is Jeanette Mufti, a member of the board of the higher education and an English teacher at the University of Jordan.
9:30 — Varieties.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — French Film. "Jashua's Heart" Starring Gilbert Brinkman: Clodia is introduced to Tom, a divorced engineer, and his ten-year-old son Jashua. The son develops a good relation with Clodia, regardless of what his father thinks of her.

SUNDAY

8:30 — Wings. "Little nightmare music": Helen's endeavours to prove herself as a cello player never come to an end. Indeed, her persistence ruins the honeymoon of a well known musician who comes to town along with his bride.
9:10 — The World of Audubon. A documentary on man's intrusion on the serene world of sea turtles.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Law and Order. "Out of the half light": A victimized colored lady is found in bad shape on Harlem Street. The colored senator decides to get involved in the proceedings of the investigation and put an end to prejudiced conduct.

MONDAY

8:30 — Empty Nest. "Sayonara". Lawren studies Japanese because she is having problems with her husband.
9:10 — Capital City: Sylvia, head dealer at Shane dealers, conspires to get rid of Declan, Michelle, Chas and Circa by recommending them to another company.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Gold. "Bye Chris Hampton". Starring Yammich Blason: The city council meets to discuss the possibility of imposing taxes on prospecting. In addition to procedural matters pertaining to selling land.

TUESDAY

8:30 — Princesses. "Luy led-dahs". Expressing one's feelings through writing can prove dangerous.
9:10 — The Palace Guard: Ex-convicts Thomas and Christy are appointed as special guards and investigators for Palace Hotels.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Oscar Films. "The Greatest Show on Earth". Starring Betty Hilton and Carol Wild: A classical Hollywood production on the human side of circus members.

WEDNESDAY

8:30 — Saved by the Bell: Zack bugs the girls room to eavesdrop on their talk about the dance ball. Kelly discovers the hidden micro-

phone and decides to pay him back.
9:10 — UEFA Cup Final.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Continuation of UEFA Cup Final.

THURSDAY

8:30 — The Simpson: Lisa Simpson wins in the best essay contest and gets to visit Washington and the White House.
9:10 — NBA Basketball.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Movie of the Week. "Candace" Starring Charlie Sheen: The film is about the relations between white and colored people in the American army.

FRIDAY

8:30 — Coach. "Any place I can hang myself, I call home": Hayden is in trouble for buying a house that Christine cannot stand!
9:10 — E.N.G.: Mike reluctantly agrees to having a drug addict in the station as an editor. Ann, on the other hand, believes that everybody is entitled to a second chance.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Inspector Morse. "Last bus to Woodstock": Chief inspector and his assistant work on a new mysterious case.
11:10 — Silbs. "The cut offs": Lily's attempts to find a job are unsuccessful. Nora, her sister, informs her about a job opportunity as a house manager for a celebrity basketball player.

FRENCH PROGRAM

SAMEDI

6:00 — Les tortues Ninja. A cartoon series for children.
6:23 — Les dessous des cartes. A documentary program.
6:30 — La famille Fontaine.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Magazine E-Mé.

DIMANCHE

6:30 — Michel Vaillant. "Le pilote d'acier". A cartoon series for children.
6:45 — Des chiffres et des lettres. A program about the completion of numbers and letters.
6:10 — L'Ecole des fans. A program where children sing the songs of their favorite singers.
7:00 — News in French.
7:00 — Carneret de notes. A program on classical music.



Inspector Morse on Friday at 10:20

LUNDI

6:00 — Les jeu des animaux. The program is about the composing of names for animals.
6:10 — Le monde sous-marin de Jacques-Yves Cousteau. A documentary program about the marine life.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — The Weekly Sports Magazine.

MARDI

6:00 — Azel, au Delà d'un regard. A documentary program about Niger.
6:08 — Les tortues Ninja. A cartoon series for children.
6:30 — Marc et Sophie. "Role de dame". A series about two doctors.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Varieties. A selection of French songs.

MERCREDI

6:00 — Le monde est à vous. A variety and a cultural program.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Intertropique. The agriculture magazine on Africa.

JEUDI

6:00 — Les sanctuaires sauvages. "Corbett sur la piste du tigre". A documentary program.
6:30 — Maguy. A series about Maguy and her husband.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Le cirque du soleil. International circus.

VENREDI

6:30 — La maison dans la dune. A detective film that takes place on the French-Belgian border.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — La Guillane/ la Guyane. La vallée engloutie. A documentary program on the French Guillane which is an area in the Amazon.

JEANE DIXON'S Your Horoscope



ARIES (21 March - 19 April): Your creative and romantic urges are extreme. Be prepared to fight with yourself. Cultivate a more optimistic attitude and things will begin to fall into place. Community projects are rewarding.

TAURUS (20 April - 20 May): Your personal finances need careful management. If you are unsure, seek advice from experts. An old acquaintance could stir up painful memories; avoid socializing with this person.

GEMINI (21 May - 20 June): Your mate or an important colleague holds all the cards. Make certain you know what you want, then go after it. A parent or adviser surprises you with great news. Humor a moody partner.

CANCER (21 June - 22 July): Reach a new understanding with some who has kept you on your toes. A compromise will help you mend some emotional fences. A special friend comes to the rescue when an emergency arises.

LEO (23 July - 22 August): A morning message will be inspirational. Children need extra attention. Travel is more important than usual. Accept a last-minute invitation to meet new people. Member of opposite sex is complimentary.

VIRGO (23 August - 22 September): Look forward to a happy, relaxing Sunday. A change of scene proves welcome. Split entertainment expenses. Your best relationship is with someone you respect and trust. Talk with old neighbours.

LIBRA (23 September - 22 October): Attractive surroundings will relax you. You receive good advice for your long-range goals from influential people. Renew an old school tie. You are admired and trusted. Romance looks thrilling!

SCORPIO (23 October - 21 November): Do not yield an inch if someone tries to talk you out of a personal possession you treasure. This is no time to take the path of least resistance. Financial gains are indicated.

SAGITTARIUS (22 November - 21 December): The pieces of a family puzzle fall into place. Your goal may be insight where a member of the opposite sex is concerned. Someone may conceal points in the interest of family unity.

CAPRICORN (22 December - 19 January): Romance and creativity are featured in this week's plan. You reach out and touch people you could not relate to before. Expand your horizons. A health worry proves groundless. Get your thoughts in order.

AQUARIUS (20 January - 18 February): Your friends are depending on you. Use your splendid organizational talents to best advantage. An older person of the opposite sex will be greatly impressed. Respond to praise gracefully.

PISCES (19 February - 20 March): Get out and about as much as possible. Social pastimes and romance occupy your thoughts. Travel is favour during last days. A surprise phone call will give you new insights late today.

THIS WEEK'S CHILDREN are kind and sympathetic, considerate of others' needs. Count on these verbal Geminis to speak out on every issue. Their teachers and parents should be prepared for constant questions. These children make excellent debaters and comics, sometimes stretching the truth to make a point. Emphasize the importance of being candid when things turn serious. Being friends with these Geminis is never dull! They are full of bright ideas and fun suggestions.

4th EUROPEAN FILM FESTIVAL

17 - 24 MAY 1992
PROGRAM OF EVENTS

17 May - "Henry V" (United Kingdom)
18 May - "Home Murders" (Belgium)
19 May - "Der Bruch" (Germany)
20 May - "To Rembetiko" (Greece)
21 May - "El Cabezota" (Spain)
22 May - "Le Petit Criminel" (France)
23 May - "Lo Zio Indegno" (Italy)
24 May - "Elina Vere" (Netherlands)

At the Royal Cultural Centre, 8 pm
All films free of charge

Sneak preview of Hollywood's newest films Coming to a theater near you this summer..

Aden Young: Rising young star debuts in "Black Robe"



■ **ADEN YOUNG** is a star on the rise, especially since his starring role in Bruce Beresford's critically-acclaimed "Black Robe", also starring Lothaire Bluteau and Sandrine Holt. "Black Robe" focuses on three people who undertake a perilous journey into the hostile wilderness of 17th century "New France". Newly arrived from France, Father Laforgue (Lothaire Bluteau) finds his ambitious mission to save the souls of "the Savages" turned into a desperate struggle for survival. Daniel (Aden Young) is a handsome French carpenter who serves as his translator and companion on a 1,500-mile voyage upriver by canoe from Champlain's fort at Quebec to Honatiria, a desolate Jesuit mission outpost. Among the group of Algonquin Indians accompanying them is Annuka (Sandrine Holt), the beautiful daughter of the Algonquin chief, Chomina (August Schellenberg). They fall in love.

Daniel easily adopts the ways of the Indians and learns to hunt with them; Laforgue finds himself increasingly alienated by their primitive lifestyle. They and their Indian guides will undergo terrible hardship, tragedy and suffering, before Laforgue comes to terms with his spiritual crisis and the Indians.

"Daniel is a young French boy who wants adventure and who has a lot of questions about life and religion," Young comments. "During the journey, he discovers things that change his beliefs. He finds love as well as courage and determination that he didn't have before."

"Black Robe" marks the screen debut of Aden Young. Born in Canada, the 18-year-old Young moved with his family to Australia at the age of nine. He studied acting at the Peter Williams School of Dramatic art and at the Australian Young People's Theater (YPT) in Sydney. He recently played Sam in the YPT production of "All Stops Out." Young is passionate about classical theater, particularly Shakespeare. He intends to pursue an acting career on stage and in film. Since "Black Robe", he has starred in "Shotgun Wedding" with Zoe Carides, and "Love in Limbo" with Craig Adams and Russell Crowe.

MacGillis in "The Babe"

■ **JOHN GOODMAN** stars as baseball legend George Herman (Babe) Ruth, the delinquent manchild whose success as the first superstar of professional sports was exceeded only by the excesses of his extraordinary lifestyle. The film also stars Kelly MacGillis (of "Top Gun" and "The Accused" fame) as Claire Hodgeson, the former Ziegfeld Follies dancer who forces Ruth to confront the one thing that threatens his unparalleled dominance over major league baseball: His insatiable appetite for wine, women, and hot dogs. Bruce Boxleitner co-stars as Babe's friend and teammate, Jumpin' Joe Dugan. Trini Alvarado co-stars as Babe's wife, Helen.

de Niro produces "Thunderheart"

■ **"Thunderheart"** is an exciting murder mystery set on an Indian reservation. An FBI agent, Ray Levoi (Val Kilmer), investigates the murder and narrows in on the prime suspect. He realizes that he is a pawn in a plot that threatens not only the spiritual bonds and traditions of the reservation, but his life as well. Also starring Sam Shepherd, Graham Greene and Fred Ward, the film is directed by Michael Apted and is produced by Robert de Niro, Jane Rosenthal and John Fusco. Lead star Val Kilmer is best known for his portrayal of 'sixties rock star Jim Morrison, in Oliver Stone's 1991 film "The Doors."



■ Julia Roberts' recent beau, Kiefer Sutherland, stars with Ray Liotta and Forest Whitaker in a drama with comedic overtones entitled "Article 99". Set in the bureaucratic chaos of a American veterans' hospital, a surgical strike force of doctors (unofficially led by Dr. Leonard Sturges/Liotta, a skilled heart specialist) and nurses has no choice but to do battle with the administrators who practice the fine art of Article 99, an article that promises "full and complete medical benefits," most of which, "are not available at this time."



Dr. Sutherland stars in "Article 99"



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Would You Believe....

Guns killed more people in Texas in 1990 than automobile accidents did. In all, 3,443 were killed by guns and 3,309 as the result of automobile crashes.

Albert Einstein never won a Nobel Prize for his Theory of Relativity.

Only about a quarter of U.S. adults smoke anymore. That's way down from years past.

Seven-year-old Adam Hann-Byrd's acting experience consisted of just two grade-school plays before he got the title role in the movie "Little Man Tate."

In San Francisco, a 61-year-old woman was charged with biting her 87-year-old mother.

The playwright Samuel Beckett was once the secretary of author James Joyce.

Solution



JORDAN BRIDGE

By Ghassan Ghanem

Bidding Dilemma

SOME HANDS need to be treated with some practical bids which may prove superior than the system bid:

♠ K Q X X X — 1♣
♥ Q X X X 1♠ 2♠
♦ K Q X ?
♣ X

What is your bid?

The question here is what would be your best contract? 2N, 3N, 3♠ 4♠ or even 3♥ or 4♥ since partner did not have the chance to bid heart if he has four cards because 1♠-1♥-2♥ would show reverse values.

2♥ and 2♥ are not forcing.

2N is an under bid and is not justified by the shape.

3♥ though technically justified but it would make life difficult for partner without preference to spade or fit in heart or diamond stopper.

3♠ is an underbid regarding points and is not justified by the length and the strength of the hand.

3N is an over bid specially with the club singleton and keeping in mind that

partner's point are 12-14 points in principle.

That keeps 3♠ as the only practical option, partner may bid 3N with heart stopper or give preference to spade with 3 cards or bids 3♥ as the fourth suit to investigate a heart stopper.

Partners actual hand was:

♠ A 10 8
♥ X
♦ J 8 6
♣ A K Q X X

Partner bid 3♠ and I went to 4♠ and made eleven tricks, an absolute top.

Another bidding Dilemma:

♠ A K Q J ♠ X X
♥ A J 10 X ♥ K Q
♦ X ♦ Q T
♣ A X X X ♣ X X

You open 1♠ partner responds 1♥. What is your bid?

A direct splinter would show 18 or more points, but does it promise up to 22 points (what the hand worth in terms of distributional values)?

To make sure that your partner would go on with a moderate hand, start with 1♠ rebid and keep on forcing until you know partner's strength, with this sort of hand, you should take the control of the bidding.

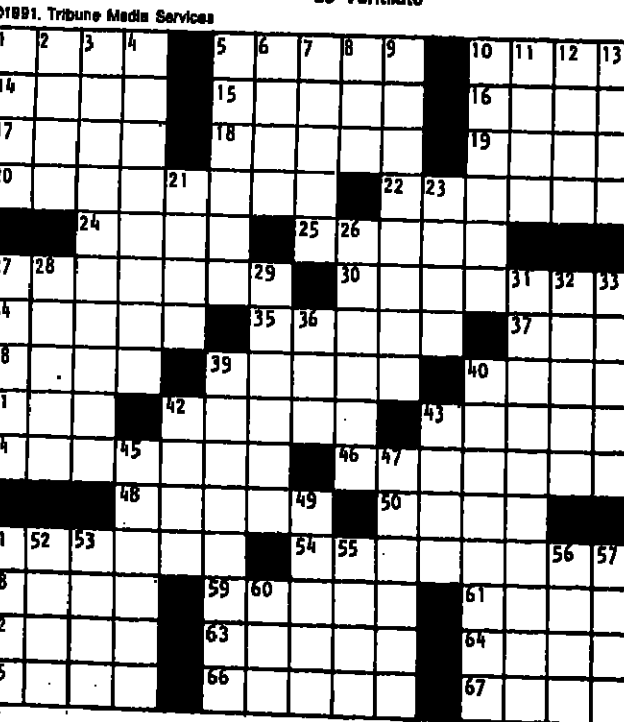
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Moved smoothly
5 Danger
10 Leafless growth
14 Feels
15 Swiftly
16 Wheel
17 Purposes
18 Wrinkles
19 React to yeast
20 Stretch out
22 Classified
24 Restricted food plan
25 An Alien
27 Extravagant one
30 Unity
34 Rowed
36 Consumed
37 Animal doctor, for short
38 Thin nail
39 Caught sight of
40 Father-Fr.
41 Based: abbr.
42 Blizzard

DOWN

1 Insult
2 Hiding place
3 Excessive
4 Doomed
5 Taste center
6 Big Hollywood production
7 Is bombs-tic
8 Skating medium
9 Decreased
10 Beauty of films
11 Door sign
12 Otherwise
13 Legal paper
21 Fox
23 Baking chamber
26 Clan
28 Sedate
29 Anarchy grammatically
31 Florida swamps
32 Sulfur material
33 Ranch animal
36 Ventilate

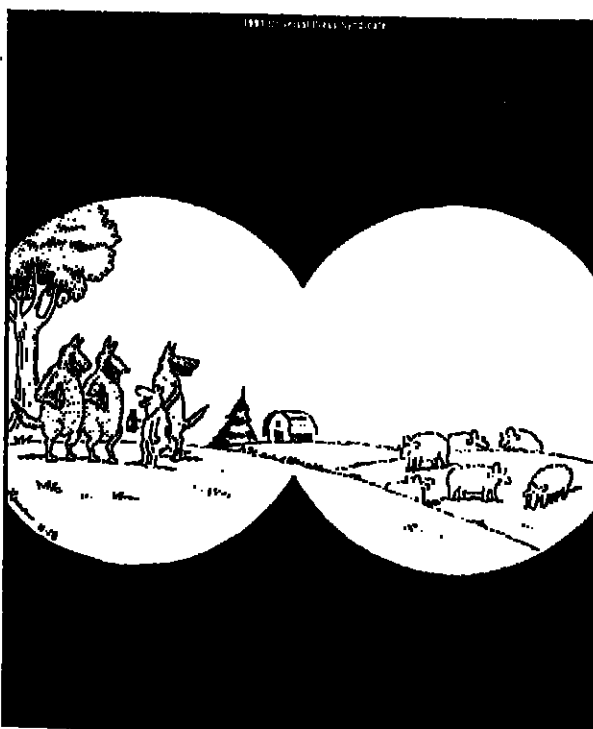


THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



Unbeknownst to most ornithologists, the dodo was actually a very advanced species, living alone quite peacefully until, in the 17th century, it was annihilated by men, rats and dogs. As usual.



Everything was starting to come into focus for Farmer MacDougal — his missing sheep, his missing six-pack, and his collie, Shep, who was getting just a little too scorable for his own good.



Diplomatic Corps

Algerian	641271/2
Australian	637246/7
Austrian Embassy	674750
Bahrain	664148
Belgian	675683
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Canadian	666124
Chilean	661336
Cyprus Honorary Cons.	677889
Czechoslovakian	665105
Danish Consulate Gen.	622324
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Al-Rimal	639861
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Balkan Airlines	665909
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China Airlines	637380
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Cyprus Airways	667028
Egypt Air	630011
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Diary

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Dammam 3	
Jeddah 2	
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